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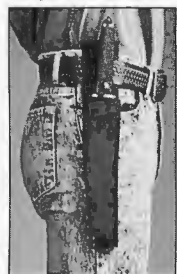
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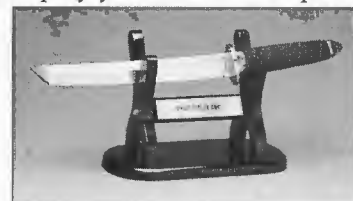


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In Memoriam

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Minimum U.S. casualties should be our number one priority in determining our actions in the Middle East. Those arguing against decisive use of military force against Saddam Hussein forget that the longer our troops — some 200,000 as this is written — remain in place in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the region, the greater the possibility of a Beirut-style terrorist attack against them. A certain amount of time is required to build a credible force, but once this is accomplished, time can begin to work against us.

As of early October, Operation Desert Shield has succeeded in establishing a formidable multinational force on the ground in Saudi Arabia and at bases in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Djibouti, Turkey and elsewhere in the region. Add to those ground and air forces the naval armadas in the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, and you can understand why Saddam Hussein is fortunate that he put on the brakes at the Saudi border. Unfortunately, Hussein's army hasn't budged from its hardened positions in Kuwait, and Desert Shield is in danger of losing its impressive initial momentum as the nations involved debate what to do next.

Surprise: We have a suggestion. Kill the bastard.

I know, assassination is dirty business, not the kind of action a respectable government engages in. And it's illegal anyway, right? Not necessarily. In time of war, or in military actions required to protect U.S. citizens against threats by foreign powers, killing of foreign military personnel by the U.S. military is not assassination but rather a legal act of war. And Saddam Hussein's wearing of the Iraqi uniform and nominal position as commander-in-chief makes him legally an enemy soldier. So much for the legal hassles. So how will we "do" Saddam?

Desert Shield is in place. Now let's unsheathe our sword: U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF). Operating clandestinely in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, Army Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Air Force Special Operations Wings and others could mount a number of missions aimed at killing Saddam Hussein. Such action would in effect surgically excise the cancer that has infected Iraq with minimal loss of U.S., Saudi, Kuwaiti and Iraqi lives. With Saddam dusted, moderate Iraqi leaders could pull out of Kuwait and reposition Iraq as a mainstream Arab nation.

So what form could such operations take? The most exacting would be taking out Saddam with a ground team, either SF or SEAL, or a foreign team trained, equipped or assisted by U.S. SOF. The Mossad might also be players in such a direct action; they do have some experience with such matters. So-called surgical air strikes, employing precision-guided munitions and Stealth aircraft, are another option. Both missions would require hard intelligence on Saddam Hussein's movements.

Another option, less direct but potentially as effective, would be to work with anti-Hussein elements in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Kuwait, providing them with training, materiel and operational assistance in launching guerrilla attacks in Hussein's rear. With most of his military power concentrated on his Southern borders, Hussein would have a tough time dealing with a Kurdish uprising in the north, as an example. The Kurdish situation has been studied for years by the U.S. intelligence community with regard to unconventional warfare scenarios in the tri-nation (Iraq, Iran, Turkey) region comprising Kurdistan.

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HOLIDAY IN HELL John Kreiger
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DESERT SHIELD: ON THE FRONT LINE SOF Staff
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THE BIG LIE Jim Graves
It was a travesty of justice, but the leftist Christic Institute managed to get its distortions, lies and fantasies about the La Penca bombing of contra leader Eden Pastora into court. Mainstream media sucked it up — until the judge threw the case out. Our former Managing Editor unveils the truth behind The Big Lie 72

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Nicaraguans are now literally unearthing evidence of Daniel Ortega's brutal regime — apparently news not-fit-to-print elsewhere. Why? 80

COVER

As we ship this issue to the printer, the guns are silent in the Middle East. It's impossible to predict what will have happened, or will be happening, by the time you read this, so we decided to back off from major analytical reporting of the situation this month. Within the bounds of security, we gave you what we felt was important to know in our December Special Middle East Coverage Section and, coupled with mainstream media reports, you should now have a good handle on who's doing what, where, and why. We opted this month to give you a look at our troops in Saudi Arabia through the eyes of a host of first-class photographers, starting on page 44. In upcoming issues of SOF (now that we've finally broken the Saudi visa barrier) we'll bring you the stories behind the photos. Photo: J. Langevin/Syigma

INSET: Far from the world's eye, Karen freedom fighters have been betrayed by the Thais and are marked for extinction by the Burmese government. We sent staffer John Kreiger, a well-traveled veteran of the area, to assess their status, and he reports that they're holding on — barely. It's an important story, and you can find it on page 36. Photo: Dale Scoggin

BULLETIN BOARD



SOF honcho Robert K. Brown is greeted by Rear Admiral Jerry Unruh, commander of Carrier Group One, on board the USS *Independence* during a press briefing in the Persian Gulf. At the briefing Adm. Unruh reviewed the list of press present and quipped, "I see we have a representative here from *Soldier of Fortune*. I'd like to talk to you about a job after this is all over." Admiral, we probably couldn't afford a man with your qualifications, but if those are your terms, we do hope you are able to send us your resume soon and in good health.
Photo: U.S. Navy by PH3 James E. Christopher

WE ALSO RAN, BUT WE BE PLEASED ... *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine was among the group of finalists nominated for the *MagazineWeek* Publishing Excellence Awards, designed to honor "the achievement of publishing excellence," which they define as the "ability of a magazine to distinguish itself by maintaining the highest standards in the definition, recognition and achievement of its editorial mission." SOF had been entered in the Humanitarian/Social/Political category.

HAVE A CUP OF SALVADORAN COFFEE ... With FMLN rhetoric and tactics, left-wing activists called *Neighbor to Neighbor* have launched a disinformation campaign to convince folks not to buy Salvadoran coffee, predicated on the lie that coffee revenues to El Salvador benefit only 14 oligarchical families, promote proliferation of right-wing death squads, etc. *nauseum*. So far, they've managed to convince Folgers, Hills Brothers, Maxwell House, a lot of consumers and the International Longshoremans and Warehousemen

Union to yield to a boycott.

This is both a travesty and a tragedy: a travesty as it is a campaign built upon lies; a tragedy as it will only hurt the small and medium-sized growers who depend on coffee for their livelihood. The few large growers can survive such a boycott, but the 8,867 families (with 49,674 members, most of whom were landless peasants before government land reforms) — not a mere 14 as "Neighbor" would have you believe — are the ones who will be hurt. As will the 183,000 permanent workers in the Salvadoran coffee industry and more than 500,000 workers in the processing and transport end of the coffee trade.

There are 32,000 independent coffee growers in El Salvador (81% are small-scale farmers; 46% of production comes from 43 collective farms, of which 22 are a direct result of the government's agrarian reform program). Coffee exports provide more than half the country's hard currency earnings. *Think about it: who will such a boycott hurt? Who would crippling the economy of El Salvador help?*

If you have an opinion you'd like to share, write: *Folgers*, 5th & Sycamore, Cincinnati, OH 45202; *Hills Brothers*, 2 Harrison St., San Francisco, CA 94105; *Maxwell House*, 800 Westchester Ave., Rye Brook, NY 10573; and the *ILWU*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. There are 400 million man hours of work for Salvadorans in each year's coffee crop. People who would use the Salvadoran people's suffering for their own political advancement really curdle the cream in our [Salvadoran!] coffee.

SPARKY: UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU

... Gulf buildup requires radiomen and other skills to help crew merchant ships, and retirees are being asked to return to sea. The FCC has extended the date to renew licenses to five years after expiration — contact them at (202) 632-7000. Former members of American Radio Association should call dispatcher at (202) 795-5536. Former members of the Radio Officer's Union call (718) 965-6700.

In addition, there are shortages of Seamen with 2nd Assistant, 1st Assistant and Chief Engineer licenses: East Coast contact Marine Engineer Beneficial Association at (718) 965-6700;

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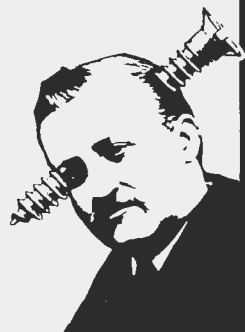
Last autumn, a medical team from Refugee Relief International (RRI) was in Bluefields, Nicaragua, to assess the medical situation now that the Sandinistas are out of power. Marty Casey helps Dr. John Peters examine a sick child, one of more than 40 children and adults Peters examined or treated in a four-hour period, mostly demobilized contras and their families. The need is great, resources extremely limited. You can help with donations of money or medical supplies (anything that doesn't have to be refrigerated or locked up) to: Refugee Relief International, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.
Photo: courtesy Marty Casey



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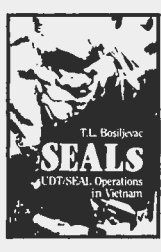
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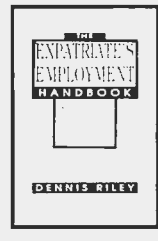
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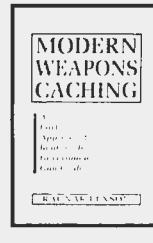
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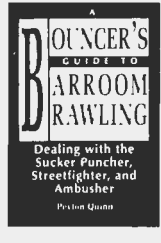
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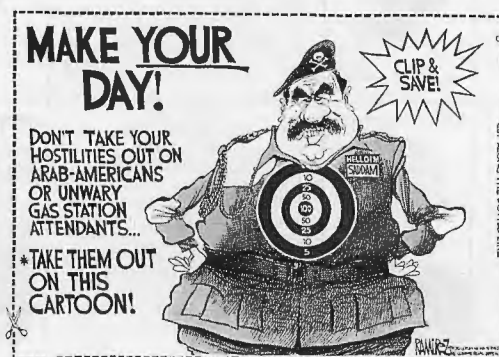
WORLD SITREP

by Don McLean

ANGOLA: with official rate 29.92 kwanzas per dollar and *real* exchange at 2,000 per buck, cans of imported beer have become medium of intermediate exchange — like Kent cigarettes were in Romania... **BRUNEI:** has reopened international competition to supply three 1,000-ton offshore patrol vessels... **BULGARIA:** parliament confirmed Premier Andrei Lukanov sans coalition after speech promising private farming, end of state-controlled economy... **BURMA:** bad guys still in control of government despite elections...this world-class producer of heroin now routing through China/Hong Kong and Malaysia and on to world markets... **CAMBODIA:** NADK (Khmer Rouge), Sihanoukists and KPRLF now effectively control over a third of the country... **CHAD:** after a turbulent 30 years of independence with wars, drought, floods and famine, things are leveling out — even a grain surplus this year... **CZECHOSLOVAKIA:** state-owned shops, restaurants to be auctioned off — prime bidders expected to be expatriates who left and built nest egg... farmland stolen by commies being returned to families it was taken from... **CUBA:** paper shortages cutting daily papers to weeklies... **EGYPT:** getting 700 M48/M60-series tanks from U.S. for cost of delivery... **COSTA RICA:** new killer bees — African bees infected by virus with lethal effect on human nervous and respiratory functions — have killed two... **EL SALVADOR:** sabotage, terrorist attacks heating up again, expect still another last gasp offensive from FMLN communist guerrillas... defense ministers of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica met to discuss ways to channel military spending into building their fragile economies... **ETHIOPIA:** end may be near for Mengistu regime with EPLF and TPLF forces advancing on all fronts; Ethiopia now officially world's poorest country, with mass starvation from famine and war (SOF correspondent in AO, stay tuned)... **FRANCE:** will start pullout of its 48,000 troops from Germany next year... **GERMANY:** finally reunited... some last-minute business by E. German Stasi was rummage sale of spycraft goodies — shredders, cute briefcases, lockpicks, antenna amps, bugs, taps, flags... cost of scrap-

ping/demiling 2,200 Sov-built East German MBTs, 800 artillery pieces and 380 combat aircraft to treaty specs estimated at over DM 100 million... **HUNGARY:** President Arpad Goncz says Magyar troops very likely to join Western military forces now in Gulf; Hungary had been slated for \$400 million contribution from Kuwait... **IRAN:** increasing

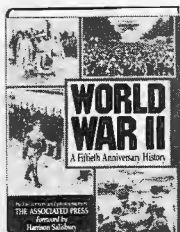
have taken out in oil... **PRC:** story just revealed of paramilitary People's Armed Police secretly killing more than 450 Tibetan monks, nuns and civilians during unrest in March 1989... PRC government getting financing from Unification Church of South Korea's Rev. Sun Myung Moon to build 100-square-mile industrial center... Chinese PLAF Lt. Van flew his MiG-19 to Vladivostok, asked to defect to the U.S. — Sovs sent him back home... Huahang Airship Development Corp. has successfully test flown new dirigible... **ROMANIA:** out \$1.7 billion to Iraq — you probably noticed photos of Iraqi troops with Romanian AKs... Hungarian minorities still taking a beating at hands of Romanian extremists... **SAUDI ARABIA:** getting 24 F-15C/D fighters (plus Sidewinders and Sparrows), 150 M60A3 tanks (plus 150,000 rounds of depleted uranium ammo), and 50 Stingers (plus 150 reloads); all purchased from U.S. Army/Air Force stocks... **SUDAN:** purges by military junta nearly complete, Iranian advisers in place, strict Islamic law to be introduced... **TURKEY:** papers in uproar over movie *The Naked Gun*, which they say is unkind to memory of Ayatollah Khomeini... **UGANDA:** will export 3,000 monkeys to the USSR (don't ask)... has turned down \$50 million in Soviet aid, didn't like the terms... **UK:** Dr. Christopher Cowley and Peter Mitchell out on \$48,000 bail after implication in Iraqi "super gun" project... IRA "heroes" shot unarmed Brit army officer outside north London recruiting office... **USSR:** acute shortages of bread and tobacco have Muscovites really watered... troops under Ministry of Interior expanded from 100,000 to 350,000, report directly to Gorbachev... KGB border guards in Red Banner Pacific Border District put on high alert, dependents kept on base after patrol spotted "6-foot tall creature with glowing eyes." (Nope, wasn't us)... **VANUATU:** 15-nation South Pacific Forum met, criticized U.S. plans to destroy chemical weapons at new incinerator now being tested on Johnson Island... **YEMEN:** socialism rapidly dismantled in South Yemen, after last May's north/south reunification; rough sledding, but at least they can chew khat on weekends now... ✂



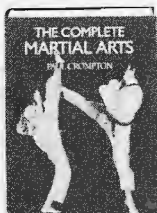
clashes between students/police, students/students, students/professors... **ISRAEL:** manufacturer Plastopil has \$3 million contract to supply material for NBC suits to "unnamed Western country with forces in the Gulf"... **LEBANON:** fierce fighting continues in east Beirut, has national economy teetering on collapse as some 800,000 people have fled with their \$700 million in savings... **LIBERIA:** troops loyal to slain President Samuel Doe torching Monrovia, chanting "No Doe, No Liberia; No president, No Capital"; no peace in sight between three warring, out-of-control factions... **NAMIBIA:** fear of coup attempt after bombing of liberal *Namibian* paper... **NETHERLANDS:** Dutch MoD confirms multinational Autonomous Precision Guided Munition (APGM) project dead... **NICARAGUA:** Chamorro urging harsh economic measures to curb inflation in wake of Sandinista strikes... **NIGERIA:** plans to restructure its 94,500-man armed forces in wake of April's coup attempt... **PAPUA/NEW GUINEA:** new deal with Indonesia: PNG Defense Force units to patrol border to keep anti-Jakarta guerrillas out of Indonesia... **PHILIPPINES:** U.S. forces to begin phased withdrawal when both governments agree on plan... **POLAND:** Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has thrown hat in ring for presidency... Poles losing half a billion in foreign debt to Iraq which they would



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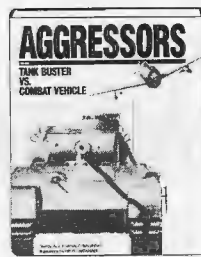
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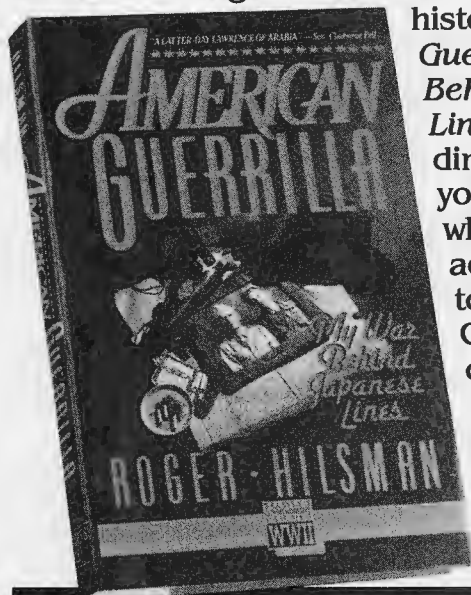
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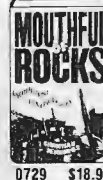
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candlepower flashlight, the TR870 is everything a tactical shotgun should be.

Equipped as shown in the photo, the suggested retail price is \$695. Law enforcement personnel and serious shotgun shooters will want to take a closer look. The TR870 should be available through your local firearms

dealer. If not, contact Automatic Weaponry, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1124, Brentwood, TN 37024 (Dealers may inquire at this address also).

TOP SECRET FANNY PACK ...

Bianchi International again goes a step beyond the competition with their *Top Secret* fanny pack. Their innovative new pack incorporates a hidden compartment to conceal the wearer's gun.

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buckle and foam backed lining for extra comfort. Constructed of sturdy Cordura nylon, this fanny pack is available in black or red with yellow trim. Sizes are small, medium and large with suggested retail prices of \$47.00, \$49.50 and \$52.00, respectively. *Top Secret* will accommodate most handguns. Contact Bianchi International, Dept. SOF, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, CA 92390; Phone: (714) 676-5621.



LIGHT THE NIGHT ...

Here's the ultimate accessory for your pistol — a mini-flashlight with a mounting bracket which attaches to Eagle International base-pads. They're available for any 9mm magazine that has a removable base pad. This includes Beretta, Sigarms, Ruger and Taurus just to name a few.

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activate the light with the same hand holding the firearm. All you do is apply a small amount of pressure to the switch pad. Nite Mags are also available for the Colt 45, 10mm, 38 Super, Officer's Model and for the SIG P-220. The flashlight, once mounted, is vertically adjustable to line up with the sights for instant target identification. Contact Eagle International Inc., Dept. SOF, 5195 West 58th Ave., Arvada, CO 80002; Phone: (303) 426-8100.

1911 MAGAZINE WEIGHT ...

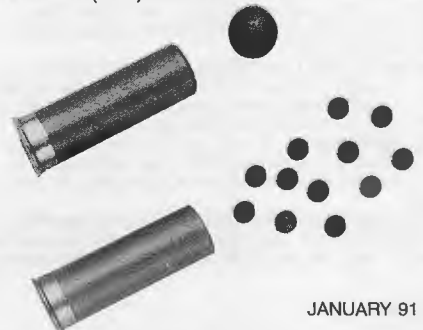
If you're looking to reliably drop the magazine from your 1911 Government Model, consider adding a solid stainless steel magazine weight to your 1911's magazine. Shaped like conventional magazine pads the Baston Company's weights add 1 3/4 ounces to the bottom of the magazine. They cost only \$7 each (installation screws included) and are available from L.L. Baston Company, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1995, El Dorado, AR 71731; phone toll free: 1-800-643-1564.

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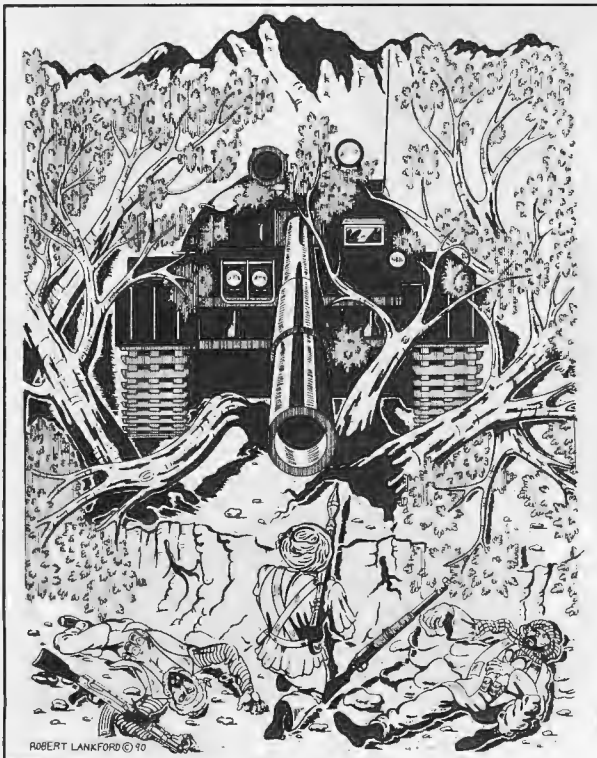
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- #7090 SOF Can Wrap, black with white logo. **\$4.95**
- #7070 SOF Coffee Mug, white with red logo. **\$6.95**
- #7050 SOF Luggage Tag, white with black logo. **\$4.95**
- #7110 SOF Ashtray, white with red logo. **\$4.95**
- #7120 Stein. 12-oz., clear with red logo. **\$7.50**
- #7100 Shot Glass. 4-oz., clear with red logo. **\$4.95**
- #7130 SOF Leather Coasters. Set of 4 with logo. **\$5.95**

Patches (From left to right)

- #7003 Shield Patch. **\$4.95**
- #7002 SOF Round Patch, OD. **\$2.95**
- #7001 SOF Round Patch, red. **\$2.95**
- #7060 SOF Patch, black. **\$4.95**

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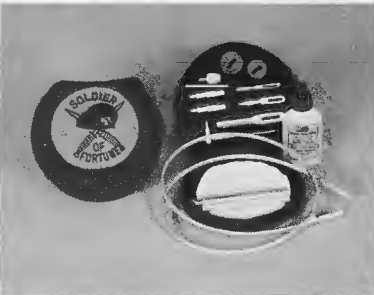


Items on Right (Clockwise from left.)

- #2004 Black SOF Ball Cap with scrambled eggs. Col. Brown's favorite. **\$10.95**
- #2001 Maroon Beret. Sizes 6 1/2 - 7 3/4. (Beret badge not included.) **\$14.95**
- #2010 Khaki Field Cap. Lined. S,M. **\$22.95**
- (#2011 Unlined Field Cap. S,L,XL. **\$12.00**)
- #2021 SOF Ball Cap with Oak Leaf Cluster. Distinctive, brilliant white. **\$9.95**
- #7014 Web Belt, black. (No Buckle.) **\$3.50**
- #7012 SOF Silver Military Buckle. **\$11.95**
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- #2020 SOF Oak Cluster Cap, grey. **\$9.95**
- #5005 SOF Duffel Bag. Large size. Black, sturdy rip-stop nylon for hard wear. **\$29.95**

Items Below (Clockwise from left.)

- #7051 SOF Navy Blue tie. Oh, so subtle way of letting your presence be known. **\$15.95**
- #7200 SOF Mirrored Sunglasses. **\$9.95**
- #7140 SOF Money Clip. **\$5.95**
- #7045 SOF Zippo lighter. For those who value never-fail dependability. OD. **\$16.95**
- #7006 Ranger knife. 4 in. blade, 9 inches overall. Grooved grip. Black with bronze SOF logo. An impressive instrument. **\$39.95**
- #7161 SOF Watch. Red logo and black, waterproof band. 1-year warranty. **\$29.95**



Item Above

- #5008 Otis Gun Cleaning Kit. A gun's best friend in the field holds cleaning rod, brass-slotted tips and "T" handles, patches, solvent, instructions. All in a pocket-size case with OD SOF logo. **\$29.95**

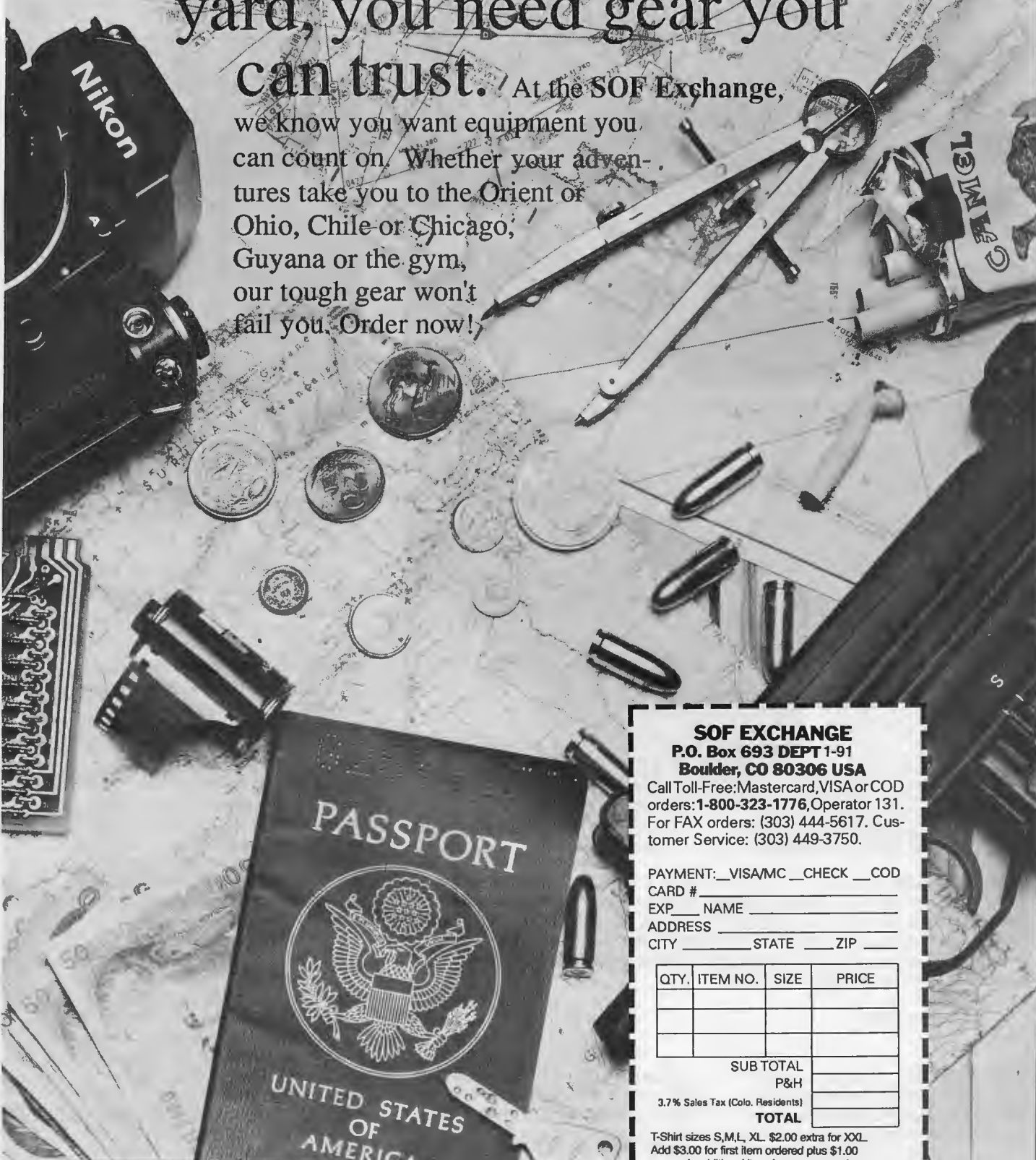
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- #5010 SOF Fanny Pack. Roomy pack frees your hands for important activities. Durable black nylon with SOF logo. **\$24.95**
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FLAK



SAUDI ARABIAN JUSTICE ... The snapshots on this page are of executions in Saudi Arabia in 1953. Had I gotten caught with these I would have ended up like that fellow with his head rolling on the ground. The string of hands and feet are from Riyadh, the execution from Dharhan. Executions took place on alternate months, always on Thursdays. Rigging up my camera for these shots was an exercise G. Gordon Liddy would be proud of.

T.E.
Lexington, Virginia.

BOTH LOSERS ... This years governor's race in California between Pete Wilson and Diane Feinstein has been a lot like the Iran/Iraq war for gun owners. It's a shame they both can't lose. It has been said by several California

politicians that gun owners can neither help nor hurt their campaign. Pete Wilson is about to find out just how wrong they are, because it really doesn't matter to me if it is a Republican or a Democrat that takes away my



constitutional rights.

I will not vote for anyone that would legislate me into being a criminal.

Michael Pacer
Glendora, California

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM ... I just got home from the 1990 SOF Convention, and I wanted to thank you all for a great time and the chance to meet some great people. One question, though. In the Associated Press story I read about the convention it said the magazine appealed to "mercenaries and those with a richly violent fantasy life." I'm not a mercenary, and although maybe I did entertain rich fantasies by the Sahara's pool, they weren't at all violent. Did I miss something out there?

D. Lawrence
Tampa, Florida

Au contraire, Mr. Lawrence, it was Bob Macy, the AP reporter in Las Vegas who, once again, missed something. He's been covering our convention for years, and still seems to lack the critical asset that makes a good reporter and for good reporting: the ability to understand what he's writing about. True, no doubt, SOF appeals to some "mercenaries and those with a richly

violent fantasy life"; no doubt some AP wire copy appeals to the same. What Mr. Macy seems to consistently overlook is the fact that we also appeal to thousands of political, military, police, business, and academic leaders around the world. And, of course, hundreds of thousands of individuals each month who have an avid interest in international affairs — an arena many Americans seem to care little about. In terms of "objective news reporting — ala AP style — we're at least up front with our readers (see our reply on page 14).

On the convention itself, thank you! From all accounts, our 1990 Convention and Expo went as well as everyone hoped (although my throat still hasn't recovered from three nights of calling the Pugil Stick Contest). What put the icing on the cake were the conventioners who donated SOF subscriptions to troops serving in the Middle East, and especially Thomas Forman, second-place winner in the men's Heavy Class Pugil Stick Competition, who donated his \$200 prize money to ship free magazines to GIs in the Middle East. Tom, your money's gone to good use: We're shipping thousands of free copies of the magazine to APO and FPO addresses, and will continue to do so until the situation in the Gulf is resolved.

— John Coleman

THANK GOD FOR SOF ... I recently intended, as part of a cost-cutting strategy, to allow several of my magazine subscriptions to lapse. SOF was on my list. Your superb May '90 issue, however, has changed my mind completely.

The "Church Merc Unmasked" article, by itself, was worth the price of a year's subscription. And the pieces on Shining Path and Salvador's Tet were stories that I could never hope to see in the Establishment press.

Needless to say I have renewed my subscription. Thank God for SOF!

Joseph Salemi
Woodside, New York

Continued on page 14



4008

TITANIUM by Chip McCormick



4006

#4007 - Comm. Style or #4008 - "Rectangle" Titanium Semi-Prepped Hammer for 1911 pistols.....\$76.00
 #4006 - Long or #4006S -Short, Titanium /Carbon Fiber Match Trigger\$29.95
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Ed Brown

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A UNIVERSAL RIGHT ... I went to Vietnam last July with my wife, who is Vietnamese. The enclosed photo was taken in Hue, where her family lives. Once again SOF goes where no others go.

Wearing the SOF T-shirt there went largely unnoticed, except for a Frenchman who looked at it and remarked, "Oh, *Soldier of Fortune*. Very interesting." But an American friend of ours who lives in Saigon — she is still in the business of placing orphans — recently had gotten a call from Da Nang. The government had six American veterans under house arrest. "What was the charge?" she asked. "Inciting people to overthrow the government," was the reply.

She flew up to Da Nang, saw the evidence, and got them released. We saw the famous "evidence" when we were there — a T-shirt with an American flag on one side and on the back the logo "FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT TO PARTY." Communists have no sense of fun.

Keep up the good work. I hope to be reading about all the latest until at least the year 2000.

Raymond Ebbets
Sylmar, California

ROMANIAN RUMBLINGS ... Kudos for Eric Micheletti's article on the Romanian revolution (SOF July '90). However, I dispute the belief that it was purely a Soviet power play. Unlike Prague in 1968, there were no (so we were told) Soviet troops in Romania to enforce Moscow's will.

The revolution may have been orchestrated in Moscow, but the players were Romanian. And even if it was just a good old fashioned coup, it still appears to have had enormous support.

It wasn't really a squeaky clean revolution, but it was still justified, so let's give the Soviets credit for doing something morally defensible, for once.

John Hawkwood
Portland, Oregon

Giving a habitual killer credit for not killing on a particular night is a compelling thing to do. After all, with the killer choosing to stay home, an innocent person's life is probably saved. If the killer was broke, however, and could no longer afford his savage habit, congratulations should be qualified. Only time will tell if the USSR has really changed its ways.

GET EVEN — WITH LEFT-WING JUNK MAILERS ... I sometimes get mail from left-wing groups I despise, which include a prepaid envelope.

What I do is mail the envelope back to them so that they have to pay the first class postage. Today I received one with the message: "Tell the NRA to go to hell" on the envelope. I wrote a

message and sent it back. Now they pay for the postage, the secretary's time to read it, and the supervisor's time to throw it away.

But who knows, someone might even think about what I wrote.

Owen D. Camp
Bronx, New York

FREEDOM & OBJECTIVITY ... Stories in SOF tend to take only one side in various struggles around the world, such as in Robert MacKenzie's story, "Mr. Della Casa, I Presume." Contrarily, *Parade* magazine did a story by Kurt Vonnegut giving an opposite account of events, praising Mozambique's Marxist government for surviving the "brutal holocaust" of RENAMO.

I suggest *Parade* send Vonnegut to RENAMO and SOF send MacKenzie to the "government" of Mozambique, and both report back to us.

Good journalists give both sides of a story without prejudice! But you don't need to hold your breath waiting for *Parade* to call. I believe SOF is more on the side of the American people than most other news publications.

Frederick Bowles, P.E.
Oakland, California

Philosopher/author Ayn Rand once said, "Objectivity does not lie halfway between the truth and a lie." In practice, if not in theory, modern schools of journalism do not accept this statement. "Good" journalism, as defined by them, often results in equal sympathy for the murderer and the victim, the tyrant and the oppressed. By spreading sympathy around equally, journalists from these schools believe they have met their objectives of being fair, neutral and unbiased. SOF accepts a different objective in its reporting, namely, to find the truth of a matter and let the cards fall where they may. If the truth of a given struggle involves tyrants, such as in Mozambique, we roast them in our stories without apology. If you accept the principle that "freedom is good" as true, there is simply no way to be fair, neutral and unbiased between those who are fighting for freedom, and those who are fighting against it. ✕

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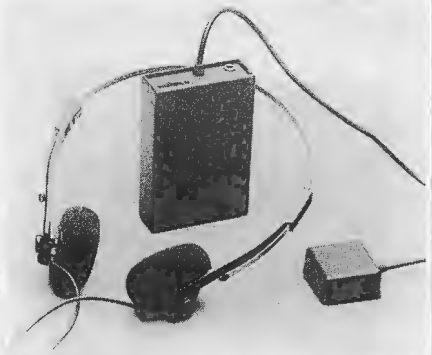
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IN REVIEW

by John Coleman

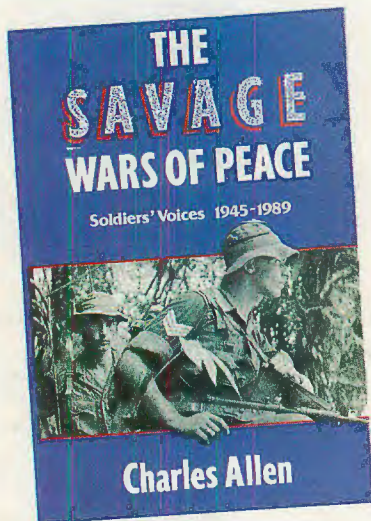
BY now malls are filling with people becoming a bit frantic, searching for holiday gifts that might actually last beyond 1 January and, more importantly, be used and appreciated. We have the answer: books. Yes, Virginia — people still like to read (and when they're finished with it you can read it too).

Here's an eclectic selection from which to choose, along with all the information you'll need to find it or order it from your local bookseller.

A P.O.W.'s STORY: 2801 Days in Hanoi. By Colonel Larry Guarino. Ivy Books. He was the 11th American to be captured during the Vietnam War, and he spent eight years surviving the hell of captivity.

ASSAULT ON ALPHA BASE. By Doug Beason. Pocket Books. An African terrorist army headed by an African revolutionary captures America's nuclear stockpile in Nevada — the novel from hell.

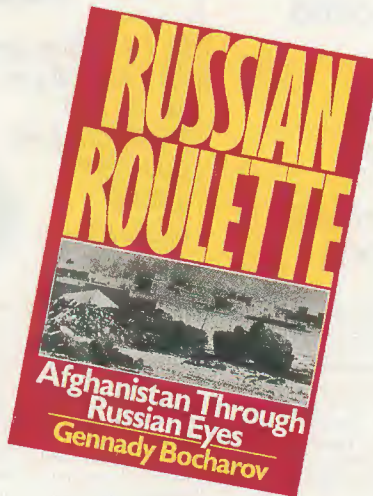
BRUTE FORCE — Allied Strategy and Tactics in the Second World War. By John Ellis. Viking. Even with questionable strategy and marginal leaders we won, only because we



out-produced the Axis and Japan.

CLASH OF STEEL. By L. H. Burruss. Pocket Books. Soviets reinvade Afghanistan, and U.S. Special Forces are sent in to stop them. Not likely now, but this novel makes it seem plausible.

DANGEROUS CAPABILITIES —



Paul Nitze and the Cold War. By David Callahan. Edward Burlingame/Harper & Row. The Cold War, from start to finish, through the eyes of a key U.S. player.

GENERAL OF THE ARMY — George C. Marshall, Soldier and Statesman. By Ed Cray. Norton. The first one-volume biography to study the career of one of America's greatest statesmen and military heroes.

GREAT WEAPONS OF WORLD WAR II. By John Kirk and Robert Young. Walker and Company. An excellent coffee table compendium of the most effective tools of war.

INFILTRATORS. By Mark D. Harrell. Jove (on-sale 1 January 1991). U.S. Special Forces and Soviet Spetsnaz battle it out on American soil in this fast-paced novel.

PROFILES OF DECEPTION — How the News Media are Deceiving the American People. By Reed Irvine and Cliff Kincaid. Book Distributors, Inc. Liberals and left-leaners control what you see, hear and read every day (except for us, of course). This is real accuracy in media.

RED COCAINE — The Drugging of America. By Joseph D. Douglas, Jr., with introduction by Dr. Ray S. Cline. Has our current epidemic of illegal drugs been orchestrated by various communist powers? A convincing argument that it's part of the political war against the West.

RUSSIAN ROULETTE — Afghanistan Through Russian Eyes. By Gennady Bocharov. Bessie/HarperCollins. A Soviet journalist went in a month after the invasion and kept going back for the

next eight years — without toeing the Party line.

THE SAVAGE WARS OF PEACE — Soldiers' Voices 1945-1989. By Charles Allen. Viking. An oral history of British soldiers who fought from Malaya to Northern Ireland.

SCREAM OF EAGLES — The Creation of Top Gun and the U.S. Air Victory in Vietnam. By Robert K. Wilcox. John Wiley & Sons. Formation of the Navy's Top Gun fighter pilot school and how it helped even the odds.

TEARS BEFORE THE RAIN: An Oral History of the Fall of South Vietnam. By Larry Engelmann. Oxford University Press. Through the voices of

Profiles of Deception



How The News Media Are Deceiving The American People

REED IRVINE
AND
CLIFF KINCAID

Americans and Vietnamese.

SHADOW FLIGHT. By Joe Weber. Presidio Press. In Weber's second novel, a Stealth bomber disappears and we almost invade Cuba to get it back. (If you missed his first novel, *DEFCON ONE*, you can now catch it in paperback by Jove Books. "Cover-to-cover excitement...first-rate!" as I wrote in my hardcover review.)

UNDER SIEGE. By Stephen Coonts. Pocket Books. A novel to make you think: narcoterrorists and a pro hitman invade Washington, and Dan Quayle sits in the President's chair — all frightening concepts.

U.S. FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE — The Secret Side of American History. By Charles D. Ameringer. Lexington Books. The title says it all.

VENDETTA. By Derek Lambert. Walker and Company. An excellent novel based on fact wherein a German

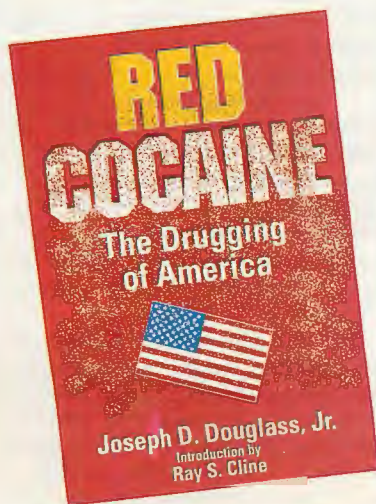


master sniper and his Russian counterpart stalk each other through the blasted landscape of Stalingrad.

THE WARRIOR'S EDGE. By Colonel John B. Alexander, Major Richard Groller, and Janet Morris. William Morrow and Company, Inc. Adapting military training techniques to your business and personal life — a concept that works.

As a final note, now's the time to catch "Glory," perhaps the finest Civil War (and war) movie ever made. Its focus is on the 54th Massachusetts, the North's first black regiment, and it deals with concepts mostly foreign to Hollywood: duty, pride, honor, courage and commitment. Its few minor technical and historical errors are vastly overshadowed by superb acting, direction and photography; it's all the more poignant because it's based on truth — unlike most of the self-flagellating Vietnam movies we've seen lately.

All the best to all of you from all of us — Happy 1991! ✘



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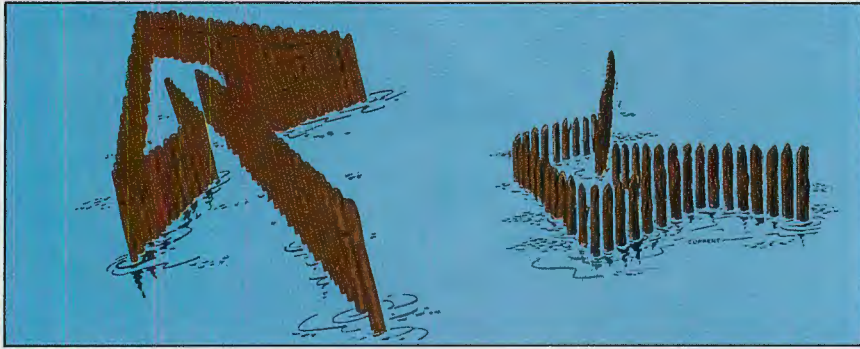
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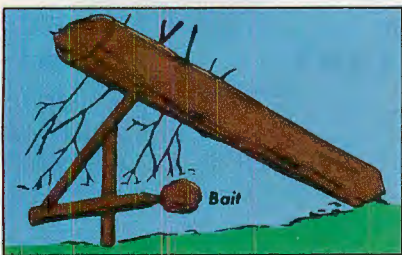
COMBAT CRAFT

BY I.W. Cotham



AFTER water, food is the most important survival necessity. You can exist on grasses, lichens, willow bark and pine buds, but meat is necessary to stay healthy.

As our consideration here is meat sources, we should mention the more passive. Termites, grubs and shellfish are all edible and can be harvested by hand. With apologies to the Audubon Society, you can rob bird nests of eggs and young. Animals such as porcupines, sloths and anteaters, most snakes, lizards and turtles, frogs, crayfish and many finned fish are easily caught by hand or killed with a rock. It is not always necessary to build elaborate and intricate traps to get meat. Consider all your options.



The commonest of deadfalls with the figure-four trigger that can be adapted to other traps.

For times when your situation dictates the use of traps, I recommend the two I have had the best success with: the punji pit and the arrowhead fish trap. Both are simple, although there are a few kinks that enhance their effectiveness.

King Solomon noted that "He who diggeth a pit will fall therein." Keep this in mind when you dig a punji pit, and always fill it back in when you leave. The base rule for a punji pit is to always

dig it large enough to hold the biggest animal that may drop into it. If you build it "deer size" in a deer trail and a grizzly drops in it he'll likely be able to get out, and you'll then have the pleasure of trying to outrun a gut-skewered grizzly on an empty stomach. Along with making it large enough, it must be deep enough, and the punji stakes must be as tall as the largest probable animal is tall. The idea is to firmly skewer the animal and bleed him out, not stab his feet and scratch his belly.

A lot of your likely catches *live* in holes in the ground and they're adept at getting out of them. If you are in a setting that affords bamboo, they make the best stakes. Cut them at an acute



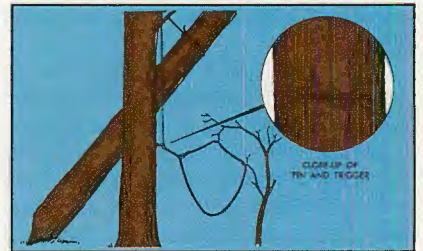
An animal in a lift snare is less likely to get free. Build small ones for small animals, large ones for large animals. Place on trails, or make them reach through noose for bait.

angle and sharpen the point as finely as you can. Bamboo is also easy to barb. In other areas try to find hardwood sticks. Semi-sharpen them and harden the point in a fire, then finish sharpening. Use plenty of stakes—close enough so the smallest probable animal can't fall between them.

Deadfalls & Pitfalls

When covering the punji trap, make sure the cover will not provide a soft landing, protection, or a way to climb out for the target animal. Thin and flimsy with good camouflage is the idea. It needn't even support the weight of the bait, as carrion can be placed at the bottom of the pit and still attract bears, coyotes, pigs, hyenas, and the just plain curious. Make sure your catch is thoroughly dead before you try to remove it, even if you have to spear it or pummel it with rocks.

Arrowhead fish traps are self-explanatory, as shown in Figure 1. They can be put across a stream (drive fish downstream into it) with rock-or-stick "wings" to guide fish into it, or in the shallows of a pond where you can drive fish into it, or in tidal areas. All they



If your noose material is weak, enhance the trap with a deadfall.

take to build are reasonably straight sticks and a little time. Vines and grass can also be woven between the uprights, if straight sticks are hard to find. Such fish traps are simple, and they work. Other configurations will also work, bearing in mind that a fish will find a funnel-hole in, but won't find a point-located hole out (like a fly in a flytrap). If you have porous cloth or can weave netting for the bottom of the trap, cover it with silt and use that to pick up your catch. Small fish are hard to grab by hand (grab just behind the gills, fingers through the gills), and very small fish are impossible to spear. When lifting fish, be cautious for spines such as catfish have.

Basic designs for snares and deadfalls are pretty much the same the world over, like the bow and arrow. They have been tried and proven and adapted to suit local materials. If you build with attention to detail, workmanship and where you place them, you will probably eat if there is game.

Use the shotgun approach. Don't build one trap, snare or deadfall and come to it once a day like it was your fridge expecting a meal. Build many different designs, different locations, different baits, and keep on building them. Make the odds play in your favor. And check them regularly —your prey can often escape given time, and your



Looks good in a book, but only works for birds — other animals will quickly dig their way out.

natural competitors will rob your traps —but don't approach a trap unless you can see it is full or has been tripped or de-baited.

Materials and tools may play a deciding role in your plans, but you can at least build a figure-four deadfall (Fig. 2) with nothing more than your hands and teeth. Keep the materials you use for traps and triggers as natural as you can. Do not strip leaves or bark off if they do not interfere with functioning. That may make your work look "better" to you, but it will also help make it look

like a trap to an animal. After you have made the components, rub them with grass or leaves, as the chlorophyll will help kill your scent. If pungent leaves are available, use them. A few days surviving in the bush, and you will have plenty of scent to mask.

Many small animals that live in holes in the ground or trees can be "trapped" in their own house. Using a stick with a short fork or barbs, poke in the hole until you feel the animal, then twist his soft skin up in the stick and pull him out. Be ready with a club. Likewise, many animals can be smoked out with a grassy/brushy fire at their front door. A little gasoline down a rodent hole will usually bring the rodent (and any snakes!) scurrying out.

In my experience the advantage of deadfalls is that certain types can be built without string or cord. Their disadvantage is that snares usually work better. If you do not have any salvageable paracord, boot laces, control cable or similar, various natural substitutes can be made to do. Jungle vines, such as rattan (a vining palm), work well and can be split lengthwise for smaller cord. Animal hide, gut or sinew can be used. Many natural fibers (hemp, sisal, Indian grass, etc.) may be found, and the paper-like inner bark of many dead trees (especially North American maples) can be boiled in ashes to toughen, then rolled against your thigh for fiber



A great bear trap. Works for all carnivores if you secure the bait so they have to worry it free and dislodge the trigger stick.

that can be twisted into good quality line.

My favorite type snares are the lift type (Fig. 3), because a snared animal that is hanging has less chance of working or chewing his way free. If you have aircraft or similar cable to work with, this type of snare can be used on animals up to deer size, placed on their

Continued on page 82

OFFICIAL VIETNAM MEMORIAL CLOCK

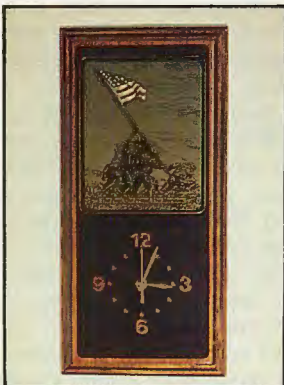
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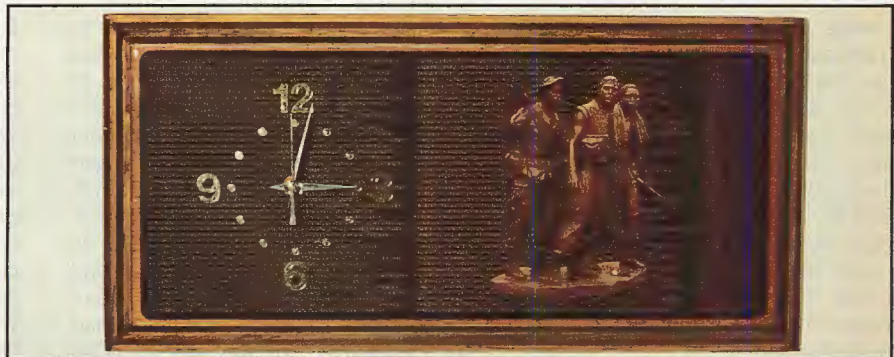
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I WAS THERE

by Robert MacKenzie

Last Bayonet Charge

RHODESIA in 1972 was moving incrementally toward a political system acceptable to the majority of both blacks and whites who lived there. Foreign intervention was minimal, with world attention largely focused on Vietnam. England, which still claimed sovereignty over Rhodesia despite its 1965 unilateral declaration of independence, conducted its affairs in typical British low-key fashion. Communist-backed insurgents had tried an invasion from sanctuaries in neighboring Zambia in 1968, but were defeated so thoroughly that only sporadic acts of terrorism disturbed the peace of a prosperous countryside.

For many months, white elected officials and traditional African leaders — chiefs of the major tribal groups — had been working on a plan which would provide political participation to Rhodesia's 5 million rural tribesmen, while at the same time ensuring that national economic progress and Western values were maintained. This plan had reached the stage where England was asked to provide an impartial observer group to travel to Rhodesia and assess its validity and acceptability to the population at large. A group, named the Pearce Commission, after its leader, duly arrived on a mission to "Test the Acceptability of the Proposals for a Settlement to The Rhodesia Problem."

In November 1972 I was a corporal in "C" Squadron, Rhodesia Special Air Service, attending a Drill and Weapons course at the School of Infantry. Located on the outskirts of the city of Gwelo, the school accepted candidates from all army units for a variety of courses and there were 28 of us on this one, designed to train junior NCOs as instructors. We were aware of the Pearce Commission's visit, and of its importance to a peaceful settlement to Rhodesia's problems with England. We also knew that radical blacks, communists and nationalists alike, would do

anything possible to disrupt the work of the Commission. We did not imagine, however, that the 28 of us, plus one officer temporarily in command, would launch a bayonet charge at a mob of rioters conservatively estimated at 7,000 strong.

Publicity surrounding the Pearce Commission, especially the publication

columns of dense smoke rising from a black residential area indicated that the situation was serious indeed, and as we turned a corner into downtown Gwelo we passed dozens of policemen, fleeing, turning to throw the last of their teargas grenades, running again. Surging up the street behind them was a seething mass of rioters, armed with

rocks and bricks, packed solid by the confines of the buildings. Totally out of control, whipped into a frenzy by experienced agitators, they were bent on burning Gwelo's business district, as they had already done to schools, shopping facilities, and homes of "sell-outs," in their own areas.

Passing through the last of the routed police, our single camouflaged troop carrier, and the lieutenant's Rover, stopped about 300 yards from the mob. As practiced, we leapt from our truck

and doubled into position. Forming a hollow square and fixing bayonets with sharp, precise drill movements, we blocked the street. Intimidated by our arrival, or more probably just curious, the rioters stopped about 150 yards away. Inside our square, and in accordance with regulations, the lieutenant got a signature from a policeman, certifying that the situation was out of control. Then we unfurled a banner which read: "This is an illegal gathering. Disperse immediately." The same message was delivered over our megaphone, barely audible over the roar of at least 3,000 inflamed men, women and children who had overcome their curiosity and were on the move again. Knowing that we were sure to be engulfed by the sea of black flooding down the street, we stood fast in our meager square and waited for the lieutenant to give orders.

He did immediately. "Platoon ... Ten-hut. High-pooort ... arms! On Guard! (Bayonets thrust toward the enemy.)

Continued on page 88



Soldiers the world over can attest to the tremendous psychological impact of cold steel. Photo: Eric Micheletti

of its itinerary, had allowed agitators to anticipate its stops and ensure that hysteric gatherings were on hand to discredit the government. Many of the same faces were observed at different demonstrations across Rhodesia, and some were identified by Special Branch as professional, communist-trained, propagandists. They chose Gwelo as the site for a major confrontation, and for several days during the drill phase of our course, pressure on the police had been increasing. All that meant to us students was an extra load of classes as we tried to master riot-control procedures after our regular hours. Hoping for a deployment to break the monotony of square-bashing, we knew that the government would use military force only as a last resort and thought that our stand-by status would remain only that.

We were wrong. The alarm went at about 1000 hours, sending us racing to draw ammunition, and load our truck and Land Rover. A quick briefing from our lieutenant and we sped off toward town only a couple a miles away. Thick

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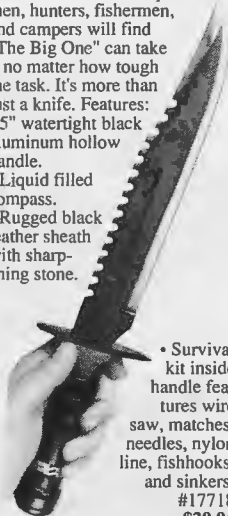
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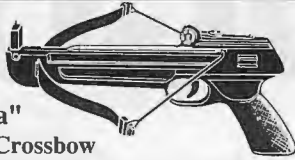
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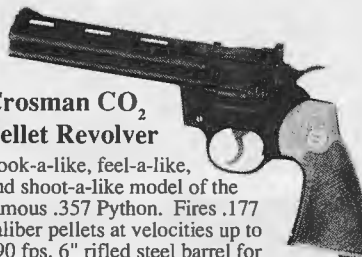
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HYBRID HANDGUN

Yugoslav CZ-99 Combines Best of 9 Mills

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Yugoslav CZ-99, patterned after 9mm Parabellum pistols of the U.S. XM9 type, is accurate, reliable and robust with numerous standard features not found on competing designs.

THERE is certainly no dearth of large-capacity, double-action semiautomatic pistols chambered for the 9mm Parabellum

cartridge. Everyone wants a piece of the action. There are now close to two dozen to choose from. They range in quality, reliability and ergonomics from mediocre to superb. Almost all can trace their origin to the U.S. XM9 trials, whether or not they were entered or even existed during that time frame.

Their future status in caliber 9mm is

unclear with the advent of the more effective 10mm auto and .40 S&W cartridges — the latter of which has already been adopted by a major U.S. law enforcement agency (California Highway Patrol). Amidst this uncertainty, a new 9mm double-action pistol has been unveiled that appears to combine the best features from earlier designs with some unique innova-

tions of its own.

Manufactured by Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, the M57 (caliber 7.62x25mm) and M70A (caliber 9mm Parabellum) pistols — both variants of the Soviet Tokarev TT-33 pistol — have served as the standard sidearms of the Yugoslav armed forces for more than three decades. Examining both the U.S. XM9 RFP (Request For Proposal) and New Zealand's quest for a new military pistol, a Zastava design team, headed by Blagojevic Bozidar, embarked on a project to develop a new handgun for the Yugoslav military. The result was the CZ-99, an interesting blend of conventional concepts and a few startling features and manufacturing techniques.

Imported to the U.S. by T.D. Arms (Dept. SOF, 30464 No. 2 — 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore, MI 48047, phone: 313-949-1890), the CZ-99 at first glance appears to be no more than an uninspired cross between the Walther P88 and the SIG-Sauer P226. The grip portion of the frame and the rear portion of the slide seem to be those of the Walther P88, while from the top, the slide resembles that of the SIG-Sauer P226. The CZ-99 is neither and cannot be dismissed as a cosmetic mutant of either.

There is nothing exceptional about the envelope, which is basically that of the XM9 types. The CZ-99 is about 7.5 inches in length, 5.5 inches in height and 1.45 inches thick (at the grip). Without its magazine, the CZ-99 weighs 30.28 ounces. There are a total of 54 components.

The method of operation is short recoil, locked breech. The locking system is a modification of the Browning dropping-barrel method as encountered on the SIG-Sauer P226, Ruger P85, and some others. A large, rectangular lug over the barrel's chamber engages the slide's ejection port in the locked position. When a cartridge is fired, chamber pressure drives the cartridge case back against the breech face. Locked together, the slide and barrel recoil rearward for about 3 millimeters after which a shaped lug on the underside of the chamber strikes the steel locking block in the frame to lower the rear end of the barrel and disengage it from the slide.

The locking surfaces on the top and sides of the barrel's locking lug and the top and sides of the interior of the slide just in front

of the ejection port are tapered with a forward slope. This is unique to the CZ-99 and provides considerable clearance between these two surfaces at the commencement of the counter-recoil stroke which diminishes to zero when the slide and barrel are fully locked in battery. These tapered surfaces produce a camming action which enables the CZ-99 to enhance its reliability in high dust environments and after extensive firing has introduced severe fouling into the system.

SIG-Sauer P226 slides are fabricated from sheet-metal. The CZ-99 slide is a forged steel monobloc, heat-treated to yield both high toughness and adequate hardness



Yugoslavian CZ-99 appears to be no more than an uninspired cross between the Walther P88 and SIG-Sauer P226. It is not and author feels it to be superior to both in many areas.

with a tensile strength of 95-105 decaNewtons/mm². The slide has been mill-finished on CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machinery with sharp radius lines instead of curves.

CZ-99 slides are first phosphate-finished ("Parkerized") and then painted with a nigrosines process that features a powder mixed with lacquer and baked at 150 degrees Celsius. This special military finish is also used on Yugoslav machine guns. Impact and wear-resistant, this paint can withstand temperatures of more than 200 degrees Celsius. It's tested by firing two 250-round continuous bursts through a machine gun that has had its barrel painted with this finish. Three slide colors will be available: black, light and dark gray.

Using specialized military forging technology, the CZ-99 frame has been ma-

chined from the same aluminum alloy used for aircraft landing gears. The frame alloy has a hardness of 180 HB (approximately 30 RC) and a toughness of 8 DIN (a German standard). This compares with a toughness factor of 11 DIN for the slide and barrel. The frame's black, hard anodizing is friction and impact resistant and able to withstand extremely adverse use.

Components subjected to high dynamic loads, such as the hammer, firing pin, unlocking insert, trigger axis pin and chambered-round indicator, are made of a special Poldi RWR steel (Czech license) designed for high resistance to dynamic load and used on numerous Yugoslav-produced Kalashnikov components.

CZ-99 barrels are made from the same stock as Soviet-type PK (Pulmet Kalashnikova) General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) barrels and should last 100,000 rounds. The entire barrel surface, both bore, chamber and exterior, is hard-chrome plated for protection from corrosion and wear. Firing tests of CZ-99 prototypes produced an increase in bore diameter of only 0.02mm after 30,000 rounds. Barrel length is 4.32 inches (108mm). The six-groove bore has a right-hand twist with one turn in approximately 10 inches.

The coil-type recoil spring is wrapped around a full-length guide rod. This precludes "press-checking" in the manner formerly taught by Jeff Cooper at Gunsite, but this was always, in my opinion, a potentially dangerous maneuver and, in any event, the CZ-99's loaded-chamber indicator reduces it to an unnecessary affectation. Of three-piece construction, the spring-loaded pin protrudes at about a 45-degree angle through a hole in the top of the slide about a quarter inch to the rear of the breech face when the head of a cartridge case presses up against it. It's painted with red enamel that has already partially chipped off on SOF's test specimen, but devices of this type are principally tactile in nature anyway.

The recoil spring's guide rod is hollow and this is presumably one of the features that permit the CZ-99 to be fired underwater. While much is made of this in Zastava's promotional video, it is, to me at least, a gimmick of small consequence.

Of greater importance is the innovative chamfered firing pin hole on the breech face, which has been radiused around its edge to prevent pierced primers occasion-

ally encountered when substandard ammunition is employed. The firing pin itself is a conventional spring-loaded, inertia-type with a tip of reduced diameter. The firing pin remains blocked by a spring-loaded lock in the slide until the final movement of the trigger pull presses the lock upward and permits the hammer to drive the firing pin forward. Both the firing pin and extractor are retained by the same roll pin and are not easily removed for maintenance and cleaning.

Both the front and rear sights attached to the CZ-99's slide are far better than average. The fixed, blade-type front sight and open square-notch rear sight are of high-profile configuration and can be drifted in their dovetails in the slide to adjust windage zero. The front blade is an ample 3.5mm (0.138 inch) thick and that matches the width of the rear sight's square notch. To reduce the possibility of snagging, the two upper edges of the rear sight have been beveled. The sight radius is 6.1 inches.

Tritium night sights are standard on the CZ-99. The tritium crystals (one on the front sight blade and one on each side of the rear sight's open square notch) are mounted so that they appear as vertical columns in a circular opening. These three openings will be surrounded by white circles on future production series specimens. I wouldn't wait for this modification. Under stress, those concentrating on a flash front sight picture will not, under daylight conditions, notice any colored circles, bars, dots or triangles. For some reason unknown to me, the tops of the three tritium crystals are also exposed so that they can be viewed when looking straight down onto the slide.

Tritium crystals of this type have a useful life of at least 10 years.

Another useless fetish has

been aped on the frame. The trigger guard has been squared off and provided with horizontal serrations. If you fire from the Weaver hold with the support hand securely wrapped around the firing hand, there is no reason to place the index finger of the support hand on the trigger guard. In any event, this finger will invariably slide off during the recoil cycle. A rounded trigger guard reduces the temptation to adopt this silly mannerism.

There is an ambidextrous hammer-drop lever toward the top and front of each grip panel on this double-action pistol. Pressing it downward will either release the slide if it is in the rearward position or drop the hammer. The hammer has two cocking notches. The hammer automatically drops back to the first 20-degree notch upon decocking. This feature prevents accidental discharge if the pistol is dropped on the hammer or struck a heavy blow. As the hammer cannot contact the firing pin when in the full-cock position unless the trigger is pulled fully rearward, complete safety is assured in this position also. There is no manually operated safety. The hammer-drop lever is spring-loaded. After it has been pressed downward to drop the hammer or release the slide, it will rotate upward after release of pressure and the pistol can be fired double-action without further manipulation of the controls.

Squeezing the trigger with the hammer forward draws the trigger bar (in the interior of the frame on the right side) forward so that its lug engages the hook on the underside of the hammer and rotates the hammer to the cocked position. Near the end of the trigger movement, the trigger bar's lug presses upward on the firing pin block to release the striker, while also pushing the sear clear of the hammer. Final trigger movement cams the trigger bar's lug out of engagement with the hammer hook to release the hammer. After firing the first round, the recoiling slide rotates the hammer back to full cock and subsequent shots are fired single-action, unless the hammer-drop lever is used to drop the hammer.

Trigger pull weights on our test specimen were 4.5 pounds in single-action and a surprisingly light 8.75 pounds in the double-action mode. The trigger is a steel forging with vertical grooves. Smooth triggers are usually preferred for double-action shooting.

Individuals with small hands usually have trouble reaching

the trigger on large-capacity pistols of this type when it is fully forward in the double-action position. The distance from the front face of the CZ-99's trigger to the grip's backstrap is 2.87 inches and that's about par. Trigger travel is 0.19 inch in single-action and 0.55 inch in double-action. Both of these dimensions are also average.

The frame's front strap has nine deeply cut vertical serrations. The back strap is smooth. Rather thick wood grip panels were provided on our test specimen. The quality of checkering was only mediocre. They add to the CZ-99's bulk in an area where it needs streamlining. In the future, the CZ-99 will come equipped with substantially thinner synthetic grip panels. Each grip panel is retained by two threaded screws which turn into steel bushings staked to the frame. This is an excellent method of grip installation, as threads tapped directly into an aluminum alloy frame will be stripped in short order by the steel retaining screws, leaving you with a wrecked, and quite worthless, frame.

There is a steel pin in a recess at the heel of the frame to which a lanyard can be attached — a nice touch for horse-mounted cavalry.

The magazine catch/release is ambidextrous and located correctly — on the frame to the rear of the trigger guard. Left-handed shooters and those practicing weak-hand firing usually depress a left-side magazine catch/release with the trigger finger of the left hand. It is more convenient to use the thumb and the chance of accidentally depressing a right-side magazine catch/release — and inadvertently dropping the magazine — during a scuffle or against some object is remote. Both loaded and unloaded magazines fall freely away from the magazine-well when released.

CZ-99 magazines hold 15 rounds and are of the staggered-column, single-position-feed, detachable-box type. The magazine design is conventional and traces its origin — as do most large-capacity 9mm magazines — to the Browning High Power. The sheet-metal magazine body has three indicator holes, marked 5, 10 and 15. The follower is machined from aluminum alloy stock. A shelf on the follower activates the slide stop (hammer-drop lever) on the left interior of the frame to hold open the slide after the last round has been fired. The magazine can be easily disassembled — and should be every time the pistol itself is cleaned.

Above the trigger guard on the left side of the frame is the disassembly lever which is attached to the barrel link. Rotating the lever downward 90 degrees permits the slide and barrel group to be removed from the frame.

Before doing so, remove the magazine. Retract the slide rearward and push up the slide stop (hammer-drop lever) to hold the slide in the rearward position. From the opening on the right side of the frame, push the barrel link pin to the left as far as it will

CZ-99 comes with tritium sights as standard issue. The tritium crystals are mounted so that they appear as vertical columns in a circular opening.

go. Then swing the disassembly lever downward. The slide group can then be moved forward and off the frame after depressing the hammer-drop lever. Remove the recoil spring, guide rod and barrel from the slide in the usual manner. No further disassembly, except for removal of the grip panels, is recommended or required. After cleaning and lubrication, re-assemble in reverse sequence.

While no amount of firing by us can lend any greater imprimatur of reliability on the CZ-99 than the tens of thousands of rounds expended by the military arsenal that developed it, nevertheless, the 1,000 rounds we fired produced some useful information not necessarily provided by its sponsors.

Ammunition of three types was fired during SOF's test and evaluation of the CZ-99. IMI (Israeli Military Industries) manufactures and sells through Action Arms Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 9573, Philadelphia, PA 19124, phone: 215-744-0100) a 9mm Parabellum load for the U.S. Navy that is intended for submachine guns only. It features a 115-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) Round Nose (RN) bullet that leaves the muzzle of a 10-inch submachine gun barrel at 1,475 fps. When commercially packaged, the bullet carries a black-tipped color code and a warning on the box that it is intended for carbines only. SOF's supply of this ammunition is a military lot without color code and with the headstamp TZZ 87 9MM. This round will usually over-penetrate in human targets. Sustained firing of this ammunition in an alloy-framed handgun is not advised. We fired 500 rounds and this cartridge produced no stoppages in the CZ-99.

We also fired 250 rounds of British military ball through the CZ-99. Headstamped RG 57 9mm 2Z, it was manufactured at Radway Green in 1957. This is corrosive ammunition with a Berdan-primed case and a 115-grain FMJ, lead-cored, bevel-based bullet. Propelled by 5.5 grains, nominal, of a cut round flake powder, Mark 2.z ball has a muzzle velocity of about 1,300 fps from the barrel of a Browning High Power. With somewhat thicker primer cups than most commercial 9mm Parabellum ammunition, Mark 2.z ball occasionally required a second strike with the CZ-99's firing pin to ignite. Recommended for practice and heavy submachine gun bolts only, the bore must be cleaned thoroughly and repeatedly with either hot, soapy water or Shooter's Choice Bore Solvent after firing this corrosive ball.

If the 9mm Parabellum cartridge has a future in the United States as a law enforcement and self-defense round, it will only be when loaded with a 147-grain (plus or minus) Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) projectile traveling at subsonic velocity (or thereabout) in a configuration that will consistently penetrate 12 to 20 inches (hopefully closer to the latter) of soft tissue

Yugoslav CZ-99, field stripped.

CZ-99 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	9X19mm Parabellum.
Operation:	Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, double-action trigger system with hammer-drop lever, no manual safety.
Weight, without magazine:	30.28 ounces.
Length, overall:	7.5 inches.
Width:	1.45 inches
Barrel:	Six-groove, right-hand twist with one turn in 10 inches. Hard-chrome plated bore, chamber and exterior.
Barrel length:	4.32 inches.
Magazine:	Staggered-column, single-position-feed, detachable-box type with 15-round capacity.
Sights:	High-profile; front: blade-type, 3.5mm thick with single tritium crystal; rear: open square-notch, 3.5mm wide with a tritium crystal on each side of the notch; both adjustable for windage zero by drifting in slide dovetails.
Finish:	Black, hard anodized aluminum alloy frame; nigrosines process, machine-gun type baked lacquer over phosphate-finished slide. One year guarantee.
Price:	\$650, complete with two magazines and three-year warranty on all components.
Manufacturer:	Zavodi Crvena Zastava, Dept. SOF, 3400 Krajujevac, 4, Spanskih boraca st., Yugoslavia.
Importer:	T.D. Arms, Dept. SOF, 30464 No. 2 — 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore, MI 48047, phone: 313-949-1890.
T&E Summary:	Accurate, reliable and robust. Equipped as standard with numerous innovative features not found on competing designs, such as: tritium night sights, loaded chamber indicator, chamfered firing pin hole and an almost indestructible slide finish. Highly recommended. Will eventually be chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge.



SURPLUS YUGOSLAV MAUSERS

Bolt-action rifles reigned supreme on the world's battlefields for the better part of a century. Invented by Johann Nikolaus von Dreyse in 1841 and first issued by the Prussian army in 1848, the bolt-action mechanism remains the same today in most essentials. It reached its zenith during World War II, during which time it has been estimated that the Germans manufactured more than 8.5 million Mauser 98k carbines. World War II also witnessed the seeds of its demise, with the introduction of the semiauto .30 M1 Garand — without a doubt the finest battle rifle of that era — and the world's first widely issued assault rifle, the German StG 44.

In the decade after World War II, nations — both NATO and ComBloc — cast about for lighter rifles capable of full-auto fire at best, or at the very least, semiautomatic operation. Many countries retained vintage bolt-action rifles during this period of indecision and, in fact, ordered large quantities rebuilt at government arsenals. The timing was such that in many instances rifles were restored to new condition only to remain unissued, as they were during the same timeframe replaced by newer types. An example would be the thousands of No. 1 Mk III* Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE) rifles rebuilt at Australia's Lithgow Arsenal in the early 1950s. They were never issued, as Lithgow commenced production of the L1A1 (Commonwealth FAL) in 1959.

Another interesting example is the Mauser bolt-action rifles rebuilt in Yugoslavia after 1945, many of which were left in the "cosmoline" after the Yugoslavs adopted the M59 (a direct copy of the Soviet SKS carbine) and some of which ended up in the hands of Charlie early on in the Vietnam War. Approximately 5,000 of these rifles have recently been imported by Springfield Sporters, Inc. (Dept. SOF, R.D. #1, Penn Run, PA 15765, phone: 412-254-2626). They are about equally divided between two types — the German 98k and Czech/Yugoslav M24. Both are chambered for the 7.92x57mm cartridge. Standard rifle/machine gun cartridge of the German Wehrmacht, the 7.92mm round is still employed in Yugoslavia where it is found chambered in the M53 GPMG (a copy of the German MG42) and the M76 sniper rifle (a derivative of the Soviet Dragunov).

In 1943 Tito's partisans numbered close to 200,000 (according to Yugoslavian sources, German sources put the number of effectives at 45,000) and held down Axis forces sometimes numbering 20 to 30 divisions. By April 1945 the partisans broke

through the bloody front at Srem and pushed the Germans into the northwest corner of the country. During the final two months of the war in Yugoslavia, the Germans lost almost 100,000 troops — many of them Waffen SS — and untold tons of equipment. Among the materiel captured by the partisans were thousands of 98k rifles.

It was the standard shoulder arm of the Wehrmacht during World War II. It has a

the laminations.

Weight of the 98k is 8.6 pounds, empty, with a barrel length of 23.62 inches (600mm) and an overall length of about 43.6 inches. The non-detachable, staggered, box-type magazine holds five rounds and has a removable floorplate. Toward the end of World War II, 98k quality deteriorated badly as the trigger guard, magazine floorplate and follower, and front and rear barrel bands were changed from milled forgings to sheet-metal stampings. By 1945, the bayonet lug was often omitted, there was no provision for a cleaning rod under the barrel, the barrel bands were fastened with wood screws and the washer and tube device in the side of the buttstock (for disassembly of the bolt mechanism) was replaced by a hole in the side of the buttplate.

Most of the 98k rifles captured by the Yugoslav partisans were earlier types with drop-forged, mill-finished components. Sometime after the war, these rifles were completely refurbished at Yugoslav arsenals apparently specializing in work of this type.

The actions were re-barreled, any components not meeting MilSpec were replaced and parts containing serial numbers, such as the receiver, magazine floorplate, firing pin, bolt and buttstock were re-numbered with new, matching serial numbers. The rifles were then re-blued with hot-bath salts. The specimen sent to SOF for test and evaluation retained German *Waffenamt stempel* (military acceptance stamps) on many of its components, indicating manufacture at the German Mauser, Austrian Steyr and Polish Radom factories. The original laminated buttstock had been replaced by one of solid beechwood (crudely inletted), but the laminated handguard had been retained. I have observed other Yugoslav-rebuilt 98k rifles with the original German-made laminated buttstocks intact.

The left side of the receiver carries the standard "Mod. 98" marking. The left side of the receiver ring is marked either "PRE-DUZECE 44" (Factory 44) in Roman alphabet letters or in Cyrillic alphabet or "T.R. 69" (meaning unknown). All of these rifles carry the Yugoslav national crest on the top of the receiver ring: a wreath made of shafts of wheat, crowned by the communist five-pointed star, circling five flaming torches and "29X1943" (29 November 1943: the date Tito proclaimed the inception of the communist regime although it was not until two years later that power officially rested in his hands). Interestingly, the stamp of the crest on our test specimen was incorrectly engraved and reads "29X1943," indicating the month of October instead of November.

German troops were often equipped with



Waffen SS troops in Yugoslavia — few survived, but thousands of their rifles, such as the 98k Mauser shown here, were captured by Tito's partisans, eventually rebuilt, and are now available to U.S. shooters a half century later.

stepped barrel, turned-down bolt handle, left-side positioned sling, and a sliding tangent-curve rear sight with open V-notch and elevation graduated from 100 to 2,000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is no provision for windage adjustment, although the front sight blade can be moved in its dovetail for horizontal zero adjustment.

Most 98k rifles are immediately distinguished by their laminated stocks and handguards fabricated from layers of beechwood about 1.5mm thick and bonded together under intense hydraulic pressure with phenolic resin. While they appear no more than a desperate cost-effective measure, these laminated stocks are much stronger and less prone to warp than solid beech or walnut. A cup-shaped, sheet-metal buttplate inhibits separation of

Czech-produced M24 Mauser rifles and the Yugoslav army used both M24 rifles produced at the Czech Brno factory and those manufactured by the Yugoslav government arms factory at Kragujevac. Thus, it cannot be determined whether or not SOF's test M24 rifle was captured from the Germans or original Yugoslav army issue. It has numerous components — the bayonet lug, sear, trigger, magazine floorplate and rear sight parts — that carry a "Z" in a "C" which indicates manufacture at Brno, Czechoslovakia. While it generally resembles the 98k, the M24 has a horizontal bolt handle, two sets of sling swivels (bottom and left side) and a handguard which extends to the receiver ring (the 98k handguard extends only to the front of the rear sight). In addition, the rear barrel band, which holds the front sling swivels, is fastened to the stock by a screw (a feature copied from the Austro-Hungarian straight-pull Mannlichers). In every other way the M24 almost duplicates the 98k.

Originally, M24 barrels were almost a half-inch shorter than those of the 98k. After re-barreling at Factory 44, they are now identical in length to the rebuilt 98k rifles. Our test specimen exhibits precise and well-executed stock inletting, in contrast to the rebuilt 98k. Its crest carries the correct date and under the crest it is marked "M24/52C" (Cyrillic alpha-

bet). I assume this means a Model 24 rifle reconditioned in 1952, but this has not been verified. The wooden crates in which these rifles were packed are marked "VZ-24/52C." Vz is the Czech abbreviation for "vzor," which means "model."

Either the 98k or M24/52C can be purchased from Springfield Sporters, Inc. for \$175 plus \$6 handling and shipping. All are in excellent condition, but for another \$15 you'll get one that's like new throughout. Slings for either rifle (Israeli-made in the case of the 98k sling) are \$8 each and a 98k "tobacco can" cleaning kit costs \$14. A box of 50 rounds of dummy ammo sells for \$12, but shooting ball — Berdan-primed and corrosive — goes for only \$13 for 150 rounds (about 8 1/2 cents a round).

Within a few years these rifles will be worth considerably more than their current price, as they are of considerable interest to both ComBloc and World War II German collectors, as well as shooters. However, be advised that they are packed in very tacky storage grease and must be completely de-greased prior to shooting or display. This is not a task to be undertaken lightly. Every single screw, spring and component must be disassembled and

cleaned with solvent and then lightly lubricated and re-assembled. More collector-grade firearms have been seriously devalued by mutilating their slotted screw heads with the incorrect size screwdriver than by any other means. If you do not own screwdrivers that are hollow ground especially to fit gun screws, either purchase a set from Brownells, Inc. (Dept. SOF, Route 2, Box 1, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, Iowa 50171, phone: 515-623-5401) or have your gunsmith disassemble the rifle. Grease should be removed from the buttstock and handguard with paint thinner.

After you have removed the grease, don't expect to see pre-war Mauser quality, i.e., exquisite hand polishing and fitting, topped off by rust bluing. These are government arsenal refurbished rifles — brand new, but cosmetically a little rough and crude here and there. They were rebuilt almost 40 years ago by government workers in a socialist state just emerging from the ashes of World War II. As now evidenced by the new CZ-99 pistol and previously by such military small arms as the M61(j) SMG (see "Skorpion," SOF, November '86) and the bewildering variety of high-quality, Kalashnikov-type weapons produced at the Zavodi Crvena Zastava factory

in Kragujevac, Yugoslav arms making has come a long way in the last four decades.

Although it was never popular in the United States, the 7.92x57mm (or 8x57mm JS) cartridge is historically one of the world's great military small arms cartridges. The 7.92mm round ballistically compares favorably with the .30-06. Introduced with the Model 88 Mauser military rifle, the bullet diameter was increased to .323-inch in 1905. Speer manufactures 150-, 170- and 200-grain spitzer soft point .323-inch bullets and when propelled by a sufficient powder charge they can take any North American game. Military ball ammunition from numerous sources is plentiful and inexpensive.

As a final caveat, be advised that military turn-bolts such as these — along with single-action revolvers — will probably be among the last firearms to be taken away from us. Our possession of them should continue unrestricted until Sarah Brady and Howard Metzenbaum determine that with the addition of scopes they become "sniper rifles" and the BATF discovers that they have bayonet lugs and therefore can serve no legitimate "sporting purpose."

—P.K.



Receiver markings on this Yugoslav Mauser rifle indicate it to be a Model 24, apparently rebuilt in 1952, at Factory 44. Note Yugoslav national crest: a wreath made of shafts of wheat, crowned by the communist five-pointed star, circling five flaming torches and the date Tito proclaimed the inception of the communist regime.

with expansion to about .60 caliber (more or less).

Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5070, Rapid City, SD 57709, phone: 605-348-5150) supplies just such a cartridge. When fired from the CZ-99's 5.43-inch barrel, the Black Hills subsonic 147-grain JHP load will travel downrange at about 970 fps and will expand to .58 caliber without any fragmentation in soft tissue. The average penetration depth is 14 inches. Unfortunately, this bullet stubbed on the barrel's feed ramp four times out of the 250 rounds fired. This can and must be corrected. It is not likely that the arsenal engineers working on this project tested the CZ-99 with projectiles of this type. This is, after all, a military effort operating under the constraints of the Hague Convention. Some polishing on both the barrel's and frame's feed ramps eliminated the problem on our test specimen.

The CZ-99's accuracy potential is excellent. All three lots of the above ammunition consistently shot five-round groups with no greater dispersion than 3/4-inch at 7 yards when fired from the Weaver stance. The vast majority of gunfights with handguns take place under conditions of subdued light and at distances under 21 feet. Yet, the popular gun press reports the accuracy of combat sidearms from distances of 25 to 50 yards when fired from a bench by means of either sandbags or, even more implausibly, a Ransom Rest.

The CZ-99 should earn high marks in the area of ergonomics as everything has been designed to simplify the controls as much as possible. However, as previously stated, the wood panels provided add to its girth and impede manipulation of the hammer-drop lever and magazine catch/release for all but those with extremely large hands. The grip-to-frame angle is 75 degrees, which corresponds to that of most large-capacity, DA nine mills.

Accurate, reliable and loaded with small, but important, features not found on the numerous competing designs, the CZ-99 carries a suggested retail price of \$650. This includes two magazines and a three-year warranty on all the components with a one-year guarantee on the surface finish. The Zastava team has developed a superb package that begs to be wrapped around a more effective cartridge. I suggest the Kragujevac arsenal re-chamber the CZ-99 to .40 S&W as quickly as possible. That should represent little difficulty to a manufacturing facility astute in the production of a wide range of high-quality small arms from air rifles up to 30mm cannons. It would bring the CZ-99 into one of the pole positions for a law enforcement and self defense market about to go into warp drive over .40 caliber handguns.

SOF has recently been informed that Zastava has accepted our Technical Editor's suggestion and work on conversion of the CZ-99 to caliber .40 S&W has commenced. ✕

PRIVATE DELTA FORCE

CTU Ready to Bring 'Em Back Alive From the Middle East

by Chuck Fremont

The plight of thousands of foreign nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait has again illustrated the helplessness of national governments when it comes to protecting their own citizens working in such areas. With so much of world energy supplies and strategic mineral production limited to unstable regions in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America, multinational corporations are turning to private sector professionals for protection of their people and business interests.

CORPORATE Training Unlimited, a Fayetteville, North Carolina, firm specializing in executive protection and counterterrorism training for U.S. companies operating overseas, has operatives on the ground in Saudi Arabia. Phillip Hanson,

... professionals may be the only recourse for families contemplating a rescue.

director of operations for CTU and a retired Special Forces sergeant major, was understandably reluctant to discuss specifics of their mission when I spoke with him at their HQ, but he did confirm that CTU has a team in place and is assessing the situation in Kuwait and Iraq with regard to a possible rescue mission.

At least 1,000 U.S. citizens are estimated to be hiding or held prisoner in Kuwait and Iraq as of early October, and the U.S. government is constrained by political problems and military requirements against taking direct action to free those hostages. Right now, private sector professionals may be the only recourse for families and companies contemplating a rescue. The Bechtel Corporation, the U.S.-based multinational development giant, has roughly 100 employees in Iraq according to *The New York Times*, and Bechtel is financially capable of mounting a rescue operation.

CTU Qualified

CTU is one of the few firms qualified for

such an operation. Staffed largely by U.S. Special Forces and SFOD-Delta veterans, they have experience on the ground in that region as well as thorough special operations training. CTU has carried out rescues of Americans held in Arab countries in the past (see "Bring 'Em Back Alive," SOF, Sept. '89), and Hanson has recently been involved in negotiations in South America which resulted in the freeing of an American business executive held by terrorists.

Utilization of a private organization might also be an option for U.S. and other governments. Hanson didn't wish to discuss contacts CTU may have had with government officials or agencies.

Hanson is realistic about the difficulties of a hostage rescue in Kuwait or Iraq. I sketched a possible scenario for him: an escaped wife with detailed knowledge of her husband's hide site; independent confirmation of his location; reasonable intelligence on the military situation in his vicinity; possibly someone on the inside such as a bribed Iraqi officer or a Kuwaiti underground operative.

Where would the price tag begin for getting the guy out? \$10K? \$100K? A half million?

Hanson kicked back in his leather chair and looked at the ceiling for a bit. "Right now, with people already in country (Saudi Arabia), probably \$100K. If we didn't have someone already there, as much as \$500K — visa requirements in that region are real difficult. We had a lot of problems getting our guys in." Translation: Financial arrangements might have to be made with appropriate authorities for "special" visas.

"The biggest problem is going to be hard intelligence," Hanson continued. "Is the guy still where he was when his wife left him? If he had to move, where is he now? What about his physical condition? A guy who's been hiding for a couple of months might be in rough shape. We can't send a team in on a fishing trip; we would either need solid information, or we would need to first put together an intel-collection operation."

I asked Hanson about operating out of other countries in the region such as the

United Arab Emirates, Bahrain or Oman. He indicated that the peripheral countries are easier to get into than Saudi Arabia and somewhat more used to working with Westerners.

"Very Considerate People"

"I'll give you an example," Hanson said. "Bahrain. I was there on something else a few years ago. They're very considerate of foreigners. In fact, they set aside a secluded beach just for Westerners. It's called Foreigners Beach. Europeans can wear whatever they want, and ... well, you know how the French women like to sun themselves. Anyway, Bahrain has guards outside of the beach to keep them from being disturbed, and those troops all carry silenced Sterlings so if they have to shoot someone, they won't bother the foreigners. Very considerate people."

Is CTU seeking individuals with operational knowledge of the region? "The problem we run into is that there are just a lot of nut cases out there who supposedly have these great contacts. And you can't ignore them, because one of them just might have something. I just talked to a guy who supposedly had been operating in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and so on, and he was pretty strange, to put it mildly."

Right. You should check out some of the letters we post on SOF's "Wacko of the Week" bulletin board.

Modern intelligence collection, relying as it does on signals intelligence, electronic collection, high-resolution satellite reconnaissance, and other "national technical systems," has become so technically sophisticated that only major governments can afford it. The sort of information needed to mount a hostage rescue would almost certainly be beyond the reach of private individuals. So the possibility exists of government-sourced intelligence being made available to a selected private organization. This would allow a government to support a rescue without risking the political problems involved with direct action by a government force.

Whether governments like it or not, oil companies, manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, major mining corporations, forest product companies and others are

Continued on page 95

JUST CAUSE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

On this page we feature the winners of our Just Cause Photo Contest. After looking at these four diverse images you may well ask: What makes great photography? Well, we're the wrong people to ask. At SOF all we generally require is that you take the pix and come back alive. We know that getting usable shots in a combat zone is challenging — we've been there ourselves. With that in mind we sponsored this contest.

We received a fair number of entries but few of you shot black and white film. The color category saw many more entrants as would-be combat photogs from most branches and all services showed us their stuff. The best are reproduced on these pages. Congrats. ✂



1ST PLACE — PFC BRIAN HOPPE
DELTA FORCE CHOPPER IN TOW-AWAY ZONE

Ansel Adams became famous without ever taking a photo of a chopper, go figure. PFC Hoppe got lucky when he snapped this Hughes D-500 before intel types could arrange to have it hauled away. This bird was used by Delta Force during their rescue of Kurt Muse from Modelo Prison (see SOF Oct. and Nov. '90).



2ND PLACE — 1LT DAVID MCKENZIE
ARMED AND DATING

Never underestimate the American fighting man's resourcefulness in the fine art of getting up-close and personal with the opposite sex, even in a war zone. Hell, we've seen Marines getting dates under fire. But the M60 may be a little much, and the web gear will just get in the way. Personally we like booze and nylons, in that order.



3RD PLACE — DoD Source
HOW MUCH IS THAT SNIPER IN THE WINDOW — ?

Army troops engage in countersniper fire. We're not sure if they eventually got him but venture to say they earlier nailed whatever was hiding in the building across the street.

1ST PLACE B&W — MSGT MARTINEZ
M551 SHERIDAN TRACKED HIGH ALTITUDE BOMB

There are probably cheaper ways to kill Noriega but none quite as satisfying as dropping a 16-ton tank-like object on him. Regrettably, this one missed. The loadmaster swears he saw the Pineapple in this field just minutes before. At any rate, this is what a Sheridan looks like after kissing Mother Earth without benefit of parachute. All that's left is to tow it to the motor pool; they can fix anything, really. But what do you write on your 2404?



*“When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.”*

THIS evocative inscription rests on the Naga memorial to the heroes of Kohima. Kohima, capital of Nagaland in India, was the blocking position at which the British battled in 1944 to prevent the Japanese from breaking out of Burma into the Indian lowlands. In 64 days of bitter fighting the Japanese lost 3,000 dead and 4,000 wounded. The defenders suffered 4,000 casualties. Many of them were small men far from their Nepalese mountain homes — Gurkhas.

To say they would not have had it any other way sounds like a worn line from “The Wild Bunch.” Remember that one? As sleazy a group of desperadoes as you could hope to find races across the Mexican border with an even sleazier group of bounty hunters in hot pursuit. In the end all perish, but in the process the director has made clear that there are men and there are *men*.

What sets the Wild Bunch apart is that they have a code of honor. They perish because they are unwilling to leave one of their own in the hands of the creeps.

Knowing they face certain death, they nevertheless choose to go out in a blaze of honor and glory. Therein lies the power of the film.

Honor and glory are difficult concepts for the layman to grasp, but they have motivated soldiers since the beginning of time.

It would be hard to find a group more physically dissimilar to the Wild Bunch than the Gurkhas. Immaculately turned out, disciplined through and through, they are seemingly the antithesis of the roughneck crew who raced south of the border. Yet beneath the surface they share the code of honor.

Duty Far From Home

Borders look remarkably alike. Procedures, too, seldom vary. Only the uniforms change — and the faces. On the line between Britain’s last outpost in Asia, Hong Kong, and its giant neighbor to the north, China, the faces standing watch are those of the Nepalese hill people who for nearly two centuries have served someone else’s king and country.

Hong Kong is a far cry from Kohima. And where once contingency plans called for the border battalions to hold off Chinese attacks for 48 hours, there now is only an

6 GR in “Move and Shoot” exercises, performed in full battle gear.
Photo: JSPRS (HK)

effort to seal the borders against the streams of illegal immigrants who continue to make for the bright lights. Still, it is duty, and it is carried out well by the descendants of those who gave their lives on another border at a distant point in time.

Or is it so distant? Not in a Gurkha regiment, where the past and the future are one. “I joined the Gurkhas because it was a family tradition,” observes Queen’s Gurkha Officer (QGO) Haribahadur Gurung, 48, a 29-year veteran and the highest ranking Gurkha in the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment (2/2 GR). He holds the exalted post of “Subedar Major,” as it was called in the British Indian army — Gurkha Major — the chief adviser to the battalion commander on all things pertaining to Gurkhas. “I come from a family of Gurkhas. My great grandfather was in the same regiment, in both battalions. He retired in 1951. I joined in 1960; my brother joined in 1961. My brother has retired. Next year I will retire.”

It is a pattern repeated innumerable times. The men can tick off legendary forbearers in the same manner American

"These people know war, know what it's about. They pass on their legacy." Photo: JSPRS (HK)

kids recount their football and baseball stars. One family had five brothers who served. Another particularly well-known family had a father who reached the rank of Gurkha Major — there is only one per battalion — followed by his three sons, who all achieved the same honor. The youngest was Subedar Major when 2/2 GR was captured at Singapore after fighting the length of Malaya.

"He was beaten to death because he refused to change sides," explains Captain Ian Rigden, 2/2 GR Adjutant nearly 50 years later. "The Gurkhas were treated very savagely. Enormous pressure was put on them to go over to the Japanese. But none did."

It is this Gurkha loyalty, courage, and devotion to duty that have made living legends of these physically unimposing soldiers. Argentinians reportedly deserted in droves at the mere rumor of their approach during the Falklands War. When brought into Hong Kong itself during the communist-fomented disorder of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the units had but to draw their distinctive *kukris*, the curved knife carried by every Gurkha, and mobs would disintegrate.

The legend and the heroic past out of which it grew are never far away. Even as I speak with the Subedar Major, two soldiers around the corner carefully polish muskets captured from the Pathans on the Northwest Frontier of India in the previous century. Now, as the empire winds down, defense budgets shrink, and Britain's role in a soon-to-be united Europe remains uncertain, the Gurkhas remain steadfast in their devotion, manning a border soon to be no more.

In 1997 Hong Kong reverts to Chinese control. Just as the colony faces an uncertain future (see sidebar), so do the troops in a British defense establishment now deprived of its *raison d'être* — the principal threat to Britain, the Warsaw Pact has collapsed — and struggling to cut more than a billion dollars from its budget.

"We know of no definite post-Hong Kong plans," responds Cpt. Rigden, who has been a Gurkha officer for eight years. "The British government has said we have a future. There are bound to be cuts of some sort, but the 4,000 figure batted about in the press as our probable strength is a misunderstanding. What the figure represents is the minimum level at which we could remain operable as the Brigade of Gurkhas. It's not a target figure.

"Changes are inevitable, but it would be wrong to just seek a new role in the Far East. We've proved time and again that the boys can go anywhere and do anything. But at the moment we really do not know what will happen."

Such uncertainty would seem unsettling, but there is no evidence of that as the



FAREWELL TO GURKHA ARMS

Queen's Own Soldiers Bid Hong Kong Adieu

by Tom Marks

Gurkhas go about their daily routine. Back from a month-long field exercise in Sabah, Malaysia, in March, followed by block leave and adventure training in April and May, 2/2 GR is preparing to assume border duty. A new batch of recruits, who have already received nearly a year's basic training at the central recruit depot in Hong Kong, are being brought up to speed on the weapons systems they will be expected to service: the Milan antitank guided missile, the 81mm mortar, and the 7.62x51mm GPMG (general purpose machine gun).

Diligently taking notes, the new men, their hair still cropped close, look like anything but fearsome warriors. Indeed they break into broad grins at the slightest

provocation, and leap at the chance to practice their English. That the Gurkhas may be facing drastic changes is a concern as far away as the changes which have engulfed their native land, Nepal.

There, the absolute monarchy of King Birenda was toppled in April by massive pro-democracy demonstrations and replaced by the interim government of Prime Minister Kreishna Prasad Bhattarai. Since then, economic and political turmoil have been the order of the day. Upcoming polls will perhaps restore a measure of stability.

For the Gurkhas the elections are important, because some of the parties contending for seats, such as the

CHANGING GURKHA BRIGADE

Writing for an annual Gurkha publication, Major J.J. Burlison, 2IC of 1/2 GR, put together an enlightening look at how the world of the Gurkha Brigade has changed. Among his observations:

- Light infantry duty remains basically a constant. English may be more widely spoken, but Gurkha accents are certainly not more foreign than those of a Scotsman! "Bullets, however, still go 'twang'!"

- Training is tougher than it has ever been. "We are well on the way to being the world's best basic infantry, and the men make ideal 'hedgerow soldiers.'" Personnel problems are minimal. Instances of bullying or drug use are slight. Money problems are more common. Though many episodes are culturally based, they cause problems nonetheless.

- The "hill man" of the past is fast vanishing. Recruiting statistics show that only about 20% of soldiers enlisted in central and west Nepal spent at least 10 of their first 18 years in "fully rural hill villages." Educational requirements for enlistment affect this statistic as much as anything, since "the three R's" can only be found in schools — which are in the towns — but is also true that only 10% of the Nepalese population now lives in villages located above 5,000 feet. "The men available to us now have spent the majority of their formative years in an urban type setting, with all the tastes and proclivities which that engenders."

- This has meant the average soldier sees his battalion very much more as a "work place." He is as likely to spend his "off duty" time outside the compound as in. Consumption of alcohol is down con-

siderably, the number of Filipina girlfriends, apparently, is up considerably [Hong Kong is now host to an estimated 5,000 single Filipina maids]. "One can presume this because every evening there are about 400 telephone calls to civilian numbers from the camp, and they can't be all to relatives."

- Gurkha soldiers still like to travel, and the average soldier "will see service in seven countries in his first five years." Pay is better than it has ever been, which adds to the chances for new experiences in these diverse settings. With better incomes, married men now prefer postings to Hong Kong, with its "family permission." [A Gurkha family may join a soldier for one three-year tour in his 15 years of regular service; he himself does a shorter home stint. Families of senior NCOs and QGOs can permanently accompany their spouses. There are no female Gurkha soldiers.]

- 1/2 GR has 400 single men, 300 marrieds. Most marriages now are "love" or "own choice," with divorces being "very often a realignment of the earlier pressures and preferences." Nepalese statistics show that 40% of all marriages are outside "own caste." Wives exert considerable influence and are sent back to school in Nepal for further schooling. The battalion must increasingly tend to family needs with as much diligence as it does those of the men.

- "The portrait of a Gurkha has been changed only by the paints now available, the light in which the subject is seen, and by what the viewer wants to see. But it is still much the same picture."

— T.M.



During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, Gurkha units reportedly had just to draw their distinctive *kukris* and crowds would disperse. Photo: Tom Marks



ABOVE: Gurkha Regiment field exercises emphasize physical hardiness, bedrock of success in war. Photo: JSPRS (HK)

BOTTOM: Back from month-long field exercises, 2/2 GR prepares to assume border duty. Photo: JSPRS (HK)

communists, want the whole Gurkha system consigned to the junkheap of imperialism. They see it as an affront to national honor.

"We'll have to wait until after the





Regiment's 175th birthday celebration includes presentation of legendary Queen's Truncheon, which the 2/2 GR won for its service on Delhi Ridge. Photo: JSPRS (HK)

elections to see how things will sort themselves out," replies a QGO when asked about this.

It is probably the only logical approach. Regardless of ideological positions, it seems unlikely that any party in Nepal would rush to eliminate what has been calculated as Nepal's leading source of foreign exchange, soldiering. It is not just the five British battalions that are at issue. India itself, which incorporated six of the 10 Gurkha regiments into its forces at independence (the other four regiments remained in British service), has more than 40 Gurkha battalions on active service. They maintain their customs and traditions. A number served in New Delhi's recent, ill-conceived Sri Lankan intervention (see "Sri Lankan Minefield," SOF, March '88). Additionally, there is a Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police, recruited by the British and officered in part by seconded officers, as well as two battalions of Gurkhas recruited directly by the Sultan of Brunei, normally from the ranks of those who have left British service.

Call to the Colors

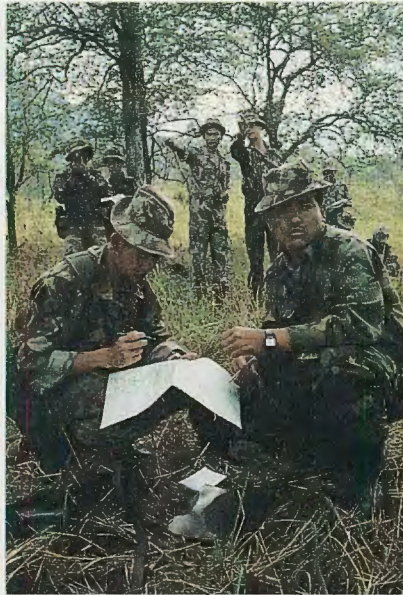
But it is in the British service that Gurkhas most desire to serve. It is the first team, so to speak. Only the chosen few are given the nod.

"If a man is good, we look for family ties," says Cpt. Ridden, who has done a year's recruiting duty in Nepal. But "line boys" (those who grow up in the camps, or lines) often don't have the qualities of their fathers, because they haven't been raised in the hills. They don't necessarily make good soldiers. We select the very best — and for those slots competition is fierce. In 1987 (when I was on recruiting duty) we had to select 63 recruits. Six hundred were in the final selection at the depot of the 62,875

who were looked at from first to last. If a son isn't the best, we don't take him. You could say that for every 100 men we select, we look at at least 40,000.

The sheer enormity of that figure boggles the mind. During World War II Gurkha strength expanded to an estimated 250,000 in all units (the 10 regiments had at least four battalions each) but today just 8,000 Gurkhas remain on duty. Their five light infantry battalions are backed up by various support units. Three of the battalions are based in Hong Kong at any one time, one is in Britain, and the other is in Brunei (where it is paid for by the Sultan and is not to be confused with his own two Gurkha battalions). The units rotate every three years. 2/2 GR takes its Brunei turn later this year, replacing 10 GR; 1/2 GR is in Britain; 6 GR and 7 GR are with 2/2 GR in Hong Kong.

Tactical organization is ever-evolving and has changed slightly since my last visit. Each battalion is presently organized into four rifle companies, a support company, and a headquarters. In the support company are a mortar platoon (eight each, 81mm),



Month-long 2/2 GR field exercise in Malaysia. Photo: JSPRS (HK)

reconnaissance platoon, assault pioneers, and the antitank platoon. Rifle companies have three platoons and a headquarters. Platoons are divided into three "sections" (squads) and a headquarters of six men. 30 men altogether. A section, commanded by a corporal, has two fire teams with four men each. The corporal leads one, a lance corporal the other. They carry the SA-80 5.56mm assault rifle, as do the two riflemen. The final member of the fire team is armed with the 5.56mm light machine gun. Heavy machine gun support comes from above (the band assumes these duties).

To man this framework, a Gurkha battalion has more than 1,000 men on its rolls, with 750 always present at any one time. The remainder are on extra-

regimental duty, block leave, or home furlough (each soldier is allowed one stint at home in Nepal — there are presently 150 such individuals away from 2/2 GR).

New recruits come in every six months. "We are a western battalion, like 6 GR," QGO Major Haribhadur Gurung explains. "Our men have traditionally been recruited from the western *jat* (clans). The 7 GR and 10 GR are eastern battalions. They are recruited from different *jat*." It is no longer a hard and fast rule, but it minimizes culture shock and adjustment problems. Central recruiting is done from Pokhara, strategically located in the center of Nepal.

Interestingly, it is the Gurkhas who actually run their battalions. "There are not that many British officers," observes a British company commander during a conversation in the officers mess, a wondrous setting that speaks of tradition and chivalry. "The Queen's Gurkha Officers (QGO) are the strength of the battalion."

Rising from the ranks, Gurkhas, after passing through NCO levels, may become a QGO. As such, they fill a majority of the platoon and company grade officers' slots. British officers must pass through these positions to learn the ropes but are constantly moving in and out of the battalion as required by the dictates of career and service needs. They always return, but it is the QGO who remain to insure continuity. They have their own mess and are acknowledged as equals.

It is, in fact, the notion of equality that binds Gurkha units together.

"We regard them as British," responds a British officer, asked to comment on the reason behind the excellent working relationships between the British and Nepalese — at a time when, I note rather cynically, British racism is on display for all to see in Hong Kong. I allow as how the comparison is unfair and ask him to continue. This he does — eloquently.

"I love being in the Brigade of Gurkhas. I'm happiest when I'm commanding soldiers. My soldiers are *my* soldiers. I regard my soldiers as I regard my brothers. If I didn't think that, I wouldn't be in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

"More than any other soldiers, we regard ourselves as equals. We call troops by their first names or their last four (digits of their service numbers), something you would never do in a British unit. We've very close, because we have mutual trust.

"When you learn their language (as all Gurkha officers are required to do), you become united in a new world. They accept you into their world. They trust you, and that trust makes you look at your profession in a new light. They're so enthusiastic, but they're realists. As such, they expect great standards. Thus they make you examine your own standards, and I find myself wanting. This makes me try to better myself. Because like all soldiers, Gurkhas are only as good as the officers who lead them. There are no bad soldiers, only bad



Tradition and vigorous training keep elite Gurkha combat units sharp in absence of combat. Photo: JSPRS (HK)

officers. We have a very strong group here, so we're always looking at ourselves [to improve]."

Role of Tradition

British Gurkha officers, able to constantly accept extra-regimental duty, have enhanced opportunities for improvement. And regular tours in Northern Ireland, where the Gurkhas are not allowed to serve, enables them to sharpen their leadership skills under the rigorous conditions of low intensity warfare. But what of the rest of the unit? The 7 GR saw action in the Falklands (to which units still rotate while serving in Britain), but the last shots fired in anger for 2 GR were in the Borneo campaign, 1963-66. There remain just 14 veterans of that campaign on active duty, to include the Gurkha Major. How does an elite unit remain sharp in the absence of combat?

"It's very difficult," replies Ian Rigden. "While stationed in Nepal I interviewed many World War II veterans. I found them very different from the soldiers we have now. Our soldiers have a broader outlook, but the soldiers then were tougher. They joined to serve and had a very singular outlook on life. Our soldiers now are no different in that respect, but back then they had continuous warfare to stay sharp. The soldiers I interviewed were very hard men, battle-hardened men. Men who have been shot at are very different. They have a different level of understanding."

"To keep our people sharp we rely on



ABOVE: New recruits are brought up to speed on the systems they will be expected to service. Photo: Tom Marks

tradition. The British army, Gurkha units in particular, has always been very high on tradition. We're very keen on military history. We try to generate a sense of continuity. The men feel this is their family. In Nepal itself, generations of service bind communities. You have people with astonishing records of service, from frontier actions to counterinsurgency to general warfare. These people know war, know what it's about. They pass on their legacy.

"To give you an example, every day Battalion Routine Orders are announced. The first thing on those orders, daily, is a small chunk of regimental history, something like what happened on that day a hundred years ago. To these we add the three regimental days their battalion celebrates each year, all of which coincide



Insignia of 2nd Battalion 2nd Regiment. Photo: Tom Marks

with famous actions: Delhi Day (14 September 1857), Neuve Chappelle Day (10 March 1915), and Tamandu Day (5 March 1945).

"Delhi Ridge is unique. During the Indian Mutiny in 1857, the battalion was the first native regiment to fight against the mutineers. They held a high piece of ground called 'the key to India' for over three months, during which time they repulsed 26 major attacks. In the process they suffered 327 casualties of a total strength of 490 men — to include eight of nine British officers. The casualties were terrible. The point is the ridge was held. There were lots of decorations. More importantly, the battalion was awarded the 'Queen's Truncheon' to replace its colors. This we still carry."

Adds the Gurkha Major, "We constantly tell them [the troops] what our forefathers did in the past against the enemy. We keep telling them. We also tell them about our Gurkha traditions. To this we add training. They enjoy hard training a lot."

Captain Ridden continues, "Imaginative training is essential to keep a unit sharp. And it must be testing training. That's how war is. The more confusing an exercise, the more it tests. We try to make our exercises very hard. With Gurkhas, we can ask them to carry very heavy weights, more than a British soldier — 80-100 pounds is normal for an exercise lasting a week to 10 days."

"Move and shoot" puts this ability to the test and is a standard part of the soldier's life. All ranks participate. Humping with full battle gear, then quickly deploying for recorded live fire, the entire array of battalion weaponry is tested, from mortars to pistols.

This emphasis upon physical hardiness as the absolute bedrock upon which success in war is built begins with each morning jog. Hills are the basic components of all runs. Mercifully, it has rained steadily for days before, so my group skips its favorite track — up a daunting trail which then skirts completely around a small range before plunging back down to earth. Other groups, though, go on, oblivious to the conditions.

Prowess at hill running has stood the Gurkhas well in cross-country competitions on rough courses, to include a renowned race of 100 kilometers contested annually in Hong Kong. Though this is for the chosen few, there is more general participation in the October "Khud Race." Soldiers race up the highest mountain around — a peak in Hong Kong has been permanently selected — then race back down at breakneck speed.

According to Gurkhas I questioned, "khud" means "hillside" in Nepalese. The race originated to commemorate the duty pulled by the Gurkhas in the 1879 expedition on the Northwest Frontier. In the fighting against the Pathans (Afghans), "the boys" were used to picket the high ground as the heavier British columns moved along. Yet each time Gurkha pickets would attempt to move from one terrain feature to the next, the Pathans would rush the withdrawing unit, catching it when it was more vulnerable.

HONG KONG BEFORE THE FALL

Hong Kong is the last jewel in the crown, a British colony bursting with wealth and energy. Its streets teem with life; every race, color, and creed does business in its boardrooms and alleyways. Some sources estimate that as much as one-third of all China's foreign trade passes through here, either overtly or covertly. For its inhabitants it has been the mother lode, a chance to get rich under a system offering the twin advantages of unbridled capitalism and British rule, which, in practice, has meant the rule of law.

No more. In one of the great foreign policy blunders of this century, a double-cross of such monstrous proportions that most observers simply shake their heads sadly, Britain gives it all back to China in 1997 — gives it back to the China which of late has taken to running over kids with tanks because their have the audacity to demand democracy and an end to corruption; gives it back to a China ruled by a gerontocracy that shows no signs of giving the Chinese people anything save dictatorship.

Bureaucracy run amok accounts in the main for the debacle. Good old fashioned racism also plays a large part. As an American general once said (and would rather forget he ever did): Orientals place a different value on life than we do. Or so some folks, the British government included, seem to think.

Not willing to wait for the inevitable descent into darkness, hundreds of thousands have already left Hong Kong, principally from the vital middle class. Precise statistics are difficult to come by, because it is normally only "heads of household" who are formally recorded. But Vancouver, Canada, alone shows some 40,000 of those on its records, which would mean, logically, more than 100,000 people. Likewise, the Australian Consulate General in Hong Kong announced in June that it had received double the applications of the previous year: more than 12,000 "heads of household" asking to emigrate to the land down

under. The "tail" behind the "head" can only be guessed at. Reliable sources estimate that by the time 1997 rolls around, close to a million people will have voted with their feet.

They get out any way they can. Canada and Australia are the favorite destinations, because their liberal policies allow those with talent and money to start anew. The United States, as always, lags behind. Our immigration rules at the moment seem to specifically favor those who will have the greatest difficulty assimilating. "Assimilation," in any case, is out of favor (for those who are unaware of it, current educational dogma holds that it's improper to "force" immigrants to become American culturally; in particular, they should not be forced to learn English — it damages their psyches). Meanwhile, other countries skim off Hong Kong's best. Numerous smaller nations, starved for entrepreneurial, English-speaking skills, have also issued passports to Hong Kong applicants.

And where there is demand, there is always illegal activity. Bogus passports enjoy a sellers' market. Panama under Noriega, for instance, ran a booming racket in credentials for desperate Chinese. Likewise, it's infinitely easier for an eligible foreigner to make a Hong Kong acquaintance of good family than it ever has been. Desperation knows no limits.

Reasons for leaving, of course, run the gamut, but most simply do not trust a system that can and will bend the law to suit any purpose. The Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing last June was the clincher. Yet even before that, many who could have begun to leave. As one middle level executive told me candidly, prior to Tiananmen, "If the Chinese government knew anything about running an economy, China wouldn't be in the shape it is. They just can't help but meddle once they get Hong Kong. And it's the meddling that'll kill the place." It is an opinion shared by a large proportion of the population.

— T.M.

Consequently the Gurkhas took to calling in artillery on their own positions just as they were about to withdraw. When the shots were fired, they would bound down the hills as fast as possible, leaving the foe to catch the barrage. Thus was born another tradition.

"Although the boys come from a variety of walks of life," opines the Gurkha Major, "when they have been trained and joined the list, our strong traditions and history and leadership — especially company commanders — brings them together. We could fight if we had to."

A Changing World

He would know. "We were in Sarawak (Borneo) for four years," he continues. "I was a young private at that time with just three and a half years of service. Fortunately, that was our battalion's last combat. But it made me a better soldier.

The experience, though I was very young, was invaluable."

How does he see the future in the battalion? Has the modern world impinged upon standards of excellence?

"Gurkhas have changed in some important ways. Education is the main thing. The boys are more educated and, at the same time, not as fit. When we joined we were used to taking long distance loads. The lifestyle in Nepal has changed, so recruits nowadays have changed. But they're still devoted to duty."

It is an opinion I found shared by all officers whether British or QGO. This is also the case with the NCOs. "We have problems sometimes," noted a British officer. "We have to. We're living in a modern world. Just the spread of English, for instance, has made for tremendous

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SOME of the funniest words I have ever heard in my life were those I heard getting into the back of a Toyota pickup, leaving Maesot, Thailand, on my way to the Karen National Union (KNU) headquarters in Manerplaw, Burma.

Just after jumping into the truck bed, a Karen liaison turned to me and said, "Hey! Be careful back there. The road might be wet." This meant nothing to me at the time. Maybe some mud. A washed out detour or two. Who cares? I was anxious to get started. "Whatever," I answered. "Let's go."

Heading off to a war zone, with 15-year-olds dying left and right in combat, I didn't think I would be in any real danger before actually sneaking into Burma. Looking like a stupid gringo on the wrong bus to Mazatlan in the back of this Toyota, I would soon find out that I was very, very wrong. This would be the beginning of The Trip Through Hell, a trip unlike anything I had ever imagined.

To start things off, the mountain roads were washed out from the rains, so vehicle traffic had nearly come to a standstill. Even elephants couldn't maneuver the alternate trails. So what were we going to do? Well, we were going to plow this little truck through a river. Not a creek or a stream —

a river. As soon as we took a left at the 3-foot watermark and started diving into hood-deep, raging currents, I knew I was going to die before ever getting close to Manerplaw.

Over the next few hours, the truck would be absolutely drifting in the current at times, wheels completely off the bottom. I really didn't know whether to laugh or cry when we started floating. Mumbling a Buddhist mantra or two, I finally learned how to brace for smashing hard into muddy riverbanks and Godzilla-like floating teak logs. Preparation for losing the whole thing, dumping over and flying into the river, which nearly happened three or four times, took a little more time. It occurred to me that we were going in no particular direction at all most of the way, just sort of heading generally downstream — toward the border, sort of.

Eventually we stopped. I got out, amazed that we were still alive. I was standing in mud — could see nothing but mud — but at least it wasn't the frigging river. I just stood there, letting this soak in for a moment (literally).

And then the moment passed. We had made it. I dragged my bag from the truck and was scratching wounds all over my body when Mr. Ditu, the Karen liaison who

had been driving, walked over, a funny smile on his face.

"Um, you're here," he said.

"I am? That's good. Where am I?"

"Um, well, you're at the trail."

I looked around. The closest thing to a trail I could see was a sort of dent in the jungle, something wild boars might use in the nighttime when they don't really know what they are doing.

"The trail?" I asked.

"Um, yes, the trail."

"OK, that's good. Now what?"

"Um, now you walk the trail, the thing you're looking at."

Ditu then explained that the hills surrounding us here, which suddenly seemed very close, were full of Burmese army troops. He added that they had a scope on the closest hill, and were no doubt looking us over. I smiled, unable to keep from making some stupid faces in that direction.

Putting my tongue back in my face, I watched Ditu jump back into the Toyota. He gave me his funny smile again and said, "Um, no problem ... Burmese army has not shot this area in ..." He turned to the other Karen liaison and spoke for a moment in Karen. The next thing I heard was, "Um, we are going now. Walk the trail. It will take two hours. Somebody will come.



Good-bye.”

I said good bye, wondering exactly when the hell the Burmese had last “shot this area.”

Let's Kill the French Guy

Standing there studying the hills with me were Dale Scoggin, a photographer from California, and Jean Paul, a French mercenary, who was packing at least 200 pounds of gear. Karen porters soon showed up to point the way and help Jean Paul with his load. I'm not sure how you say, “This stuff is going to weigh a frigging ton. Let's kill the French guy now and throw his stuff into a river” in Karen, but there are times when you know exactly what is being said in a language you don't understand. This was definitely one of those times.

Scoggin and I, working for SOF and feeling manly-manly! right about now, would of course carry our own loads. Sure, it was probably 96s (96 degrees with 96% humidity — typical in this area all year), and our bags were heavy, but it was only a two-hour trek, right? We prepared ourselves for a little exercise, maybe even a suntan.

Six hours, five major river crossings, four porters and one serious mountain range later, totally wiped out with exhaus-

HOLIDAY IN HELL

SOF Staffer Caught in Jungle Attack With Karen Freedom Fighters

by John Kreiger

Photos by Dale Scoggin & John Kreiger

Karens wait in ambush armed with (left to right) Chinese-made Type 56-1 assault rifle, RPG-2, folding-stock AK and M79 grenade launcher.

tion and drenched in mud-caked sweat, we finished our little trek. I lost track of how many times I lost my footing in the strong river currents, right on the brink of watching my bag full of cameras, film and notebooks float away.

By the time we hit the end of the trail, even our French merc and Karen porters were looking like stuff that had been left in the refrigerator for too long. Scoggin and I, the tough SOF-ers, were no longer feeling very manly-manly!, although I'm sure we smelled that way. Burmese army troops could probably tell where we were from Rangoon, provided Rangoon was downwind.

Our first order of business was to fall face first into the Salween River and try to remember just what in the hell we were doing in the middle of Bumfuck Jungle, Southeast Asia. Consciousness (of a sort)

soon returned, however, which was nice, and with that came a long-tail boat, roaring down the Salween. The porters talked with the kid driving the boat, and we were soon on our way to Manerplaw, the Karen HQ. The sun was still glaring down on us as before, as if trying to see just how much we could take, but with the long-tail hitting full speed, the wind in our faces was slowly bringing us back to life.

Smiles returned, and someone began singing "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," a la *Apocalypse Now*. Getting closer to Manerplaw, corpses in various stages of decomposition began to appear, rather adding to the effect. The kid driving our boat seemed to enjoy slightly bumping the bodies with his long-tail, as if playing some kind of game. Two or three bloated corpses later, my mind still a bit fuzzy from the trek, I



Author's Holiday in Hell started with hours of riding in back of truck along roads like this. It got worse.

fighters to look us over. I later found that the system for keeping Burmese army infiltrators out of this area is largely a matter of trust among the Karens. In my particular case, a Karen officer in Thailand had to trust I was who I said I was. He then told the guys with the truck, who then told the guy sent to get the porters, who then told the porters, who then told the kid driving the boat, who then told the Karens at these riverside checkpoints. At any stage along the way, any Karen suspicious of my intentions could have shaken his head, and that would have been the end of the road. Fortunately, this didn't happen and our long-tail was soon pulling up to Manerplaw.

Manly-Manly in Manerplaw

My first moments at the Karen HQ were not the best. To the great amusement of the older Karen women squatting nearby, I stepped out of the boat (very manly-manly! again), and went straight up to my knees in soft, stinking mud. So the thing to do was act as though I did this on purpose, most every day, and slosh onward and mudward without looking like the total idiot I was. I don't think this worked very well — I could still hear the Karens laughing long after I made it up the hill.

The first and most shocking thing I noticed about Manerplaw was that it was very civilized. After one of the more

hellacious days of my life (and it was only late afternoon), I was sort of ready for War of 1812-era tents in a swamp of Cessna-size mosquitoes and wiener dog-size centipedes. Hardly. The place was well-built, efficient looking, and extremely clean. Considering the Burmese army's promise to wipe the place out by the end of August (less than a month away at the time), the place had an aura of security and permanence about it. It was also unexpectedly large, the size of a small town, and the people walking around (the Karen fighters) were smiling at me like long-lost brothers. Still covered in mud and no doubt looking like hell, I was in a daze.

After throwing my bag into a beautifully austere, functional guest house, I was anxious to speak to Karen leaders about their current situation, expecting to hear the worst. Despite

massive and widespread political problems in Burma, the Burmese army had recently dealt some devastating blows to the Karens. Just since late 1989, the Karens had lost important camps at Chi Kahn Yi, Yejor, Palu, Thay Baw Bo, Maw Kee, Three Pagodas Pass and Walae, leaving them with only one major camp besides their HQ, Komura (Kawmura), across the Moei River from Maesot, Thailand.

The fighting for these camps has wreaked havoc not just on the Karen fighters, but on all ethnic Karens, causing tens of thousands to live in Thailand at refugee camps. A Norwegian woman working at the Mae La refugee camp, about 80 clicks south of Maesot, had some personal knowledge.

"The Karens really can't stand being there. They're very proud, too proud to have their lives so messed up," she said. "They love their homeland deeply, having been there since 1125 B.C., way before the ethnic Burmese showed up." Dressed in a Karen longi, blond hair waving in the breeze, she raised her fist and said that the Karens wouldn't give up. "They're strong, with strong hearts, and they're real survivors. More than this, though, right is on their side. They are right, and the Burmese government is wrong. Very, very wrong."

Over the next few days I found that despite the Norwegian woman's optimism, my original concern for the Karens was justified. Their backs were hard against the wall, and had been for a while. Speaking with Brigadier General Bo Mya, president of the Karen state of Kawthoolei, and leader of all 11 major ethnic groups fighting the Burmese government, was especially gloomy. "In some ways, we're doing OK," he said, "It's just that we have almost no guns, no ammo, and no funds to get them." While we were speaking, the



During boat ride to Karen HQ in Manerplaw bodies often floated past. Rudderman made no attempt to dodge them.

was ready for Marlon Brando.

At various stages along the Salween, our driver had to head toward shore, cut his engine, and allow heavily armed Karen



Weapons drill is stressed continually when Karens are not on operations.

front was no more than a hard day's march away.

Ba Thin, general secretary of the KNU, who serves as prime minister of Kawthoolei, spoke in the same desperate-but-still-smiling sort of way. "There is only so much a force can do on its own," he said, sitting outside with me on the bank of the Salween. "We fight for freedom and for the just causes of self-determination and democracy, but God knows it can be a lonely fight without friends or support from the outside."

Speaking of friends, the present (Chai-chai) Thai government recently decided that making deals with the ruling Burmese military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), to gain access to Burmese teak forests, was more important than its relationship with the Karens. SLORC is the same old "new" government set up by the same old "new" Burmese dictators after they lost 94% of the civilian vote in last May's general elections. General Saw Maung is the "new" leader, with "ousted" strongman Ne Win continuing to pull the strings. Same as it ever was.

"Ending a stable, mutually beneficial relationship of more than 40 years," said Ba Thin, "the Thais have even allowed the Burmese army to fire at us from Thai soil,

usually sending no more than a carefully worded letter to protest the incursions." He then took some photos from his pocket, clearly showing Burmese army troops in pursuit of Karen fighters in Thailand, complete with Thai road signs in the background.

No longer smiling, the general secretary looked out over the river and in a low voice said, "In the past, Burmese troops would attack with each dry season, then retreat when the rains came. They could never hold territory as supplies from Rangoon could not be maintained. But this is no longer the case, and times are quite bad right now."

Thailand Sells Out Karens

Thailand's role in indirectly helping to destroy the Karen resistance has been verified by several unbiased sources. According to the latest report from the Bangkok-based Jesuit Refugee Service for Asia, for example, "The Burmese are now able to sustain themselves along the border, as they're no longer restrained from crossing into Thailand. The other reality is the massive use of mortar, rocket and artillery, which makes it clear that finances for the Burmese military are no longer a limitation."

Like a starving rat with a bad AK, Burma, one of the poorest countries on earth, has recently become obsessed with its desire to annihilate the rebel ethnic groups. No measure is too severe, too lunatic, as long as rebels are killed in the process. Besides

letting the Thais rape their forests for teak, the Burmese have also been selling off overseas embassy property (\$250 million for 60% of their property in Tokyo) to keep their army in bullets.

Opium sales provide another quick way of getting their hands on a weapon or two. According to U.S. estimates, up to 1,600 tons of raw opium were grown in Burma in 1989. This was the most ever, and makes Burma the world's number one producer. An even bigger crop is expected this year. Figures on just how much money the Burmese government pockets on opium exports are sketchy, but the amount is thought to be substantial. No one really knows, of course, except for those in SLORC.

Because a few of the rebel ethnic groups, most notably the strongest faction of the Shan resistance, the Shan United Army (SUA), headed by warlord Khun Sa, are actively involved in the drug trade, the Burmese government conveniently accuses all groups of being involved. Accusing the Karens of this is a joke. Despite some successful Burmese propaganda efforts to the contrary, picturing the Karens mixed up with drugs is like picturing your grandmother mixed up with the local punk rock band.

"The Karen tribal policy, rigorously applied, is to immediately execute anyone found growing, using or trading in drugs," writes Professor William Overholt in the February 1990 *KNU Bulletin*. He writes the truth, but his words mean little until one actually spends time with the Karens, who do not even allow alcohol in their camps. They fight for what they say they're fighting for, and have nothing to do with drugs. It's that simple.

Perhaps worse than the ways the Burmese government finance their military, however, are the ways in which it uses its own people. Reports of the army grabbing



Karen Brass during 8-8-88 ceremony at their base at Manerplaw.

students off Rangoon streets to be used as porters surface from time to time, verified by those who escaped to Manerplaw to fight with the Karens. "It happens all the



against the Burmese government, often dying for the same causes of freedom and democracy. "What should we do?" asked the adjunct general of Kawthoolei, Saw Hla Too. "What would you do? Blow up the students carrying the Burmese ammunition or let the Burmese army walk right through the front door?" I told him I wasn't sure I had an answer for that one (and still don't).

Back at the guest house that night, I sat watching Karen fighters stroll around camp while sipping on a cup of strong tea and smoking on a cheroot. The dark jungle night was screaming with life, and my head was filled with the words of the Karen leaders. One wild jungle noise was crashing into another, every animal and insect struggling hard to be the loudest,

beast face-to-face.

Tough. If these Karen fighters looked anything, they looked tough, with the kind of look in their eyes that spells instant poverty when seen in some back alley (such as in Manila, where this fool and his pesos were last parted). No facial expression — stone-faced, steady gazes were the rule, even with the 15-year-olds. I began to realize that these kids weren't really kids at all — they were experienced jungle fighters who could spend weeks or months living on almost nothing, save a belief in their cause.

Heading out of Manerplaw in the same stifling heat as on our "two-hour" trek getting here, I also realized that if I wasn't in shape now, I would be by the time I returned. Even now, only a hundred meters out and with the sun just edging over the horizon, I was sweating rivers. The Karen fighters were as dry as a bone, still looking like a pack of kids marching off to 8th grade to take on the school bullies. All the abstract political questions that had filled my head from the night before had vanished. In a second, everything became as real and dangerous as the expression on the kid in front of me. No more guest house, no more hymns; we had just entered the war.

We Just Entered the War

The major heading this group (7th Brigade, Manerplaw HQ), said something to the effect that with the Burmese army's promise to take Manerplaw by the end of August, infiltrators of some kind had been spotted in the vicinity. I glanced down at my AK and, for the first time, tried to think of what the Burmese army uniform looked like, as if troops would come out and identify themselves to me before anything noisy were to happen.

A fine thought to have at the time. Only two hours out, and the heat was already working on my brain. I wondered how I would be in another two hours ...

I found out soon enough, of course. Wet from head to toe, three or four hours out of Manerplaw, the major began to look more serious than before, if that were possible. The fighters spread to a distance of about 6 meters on the patrol, with everyone low and moving much more cautiously. We were obviously approaching a suspicious area. We would slither maybe 40 or 50 meters, stop, take a defensive position, then wait while the major talked quietly on his walkie-talkie to HQ.

With the sun straight up now, the jungle was buzzing, and literally steaming in the heat, producing a surrealistic, Daktari-on-drugs sort of environment. The air was thick as though rain would fall at any second, but there wasn't a cloud in the sky. Even the Karens were looking a little



Burmese students sing songs of freedom to the tune of Western rock music during 8-8-88 ceremony.

time; it happened to me," said Maung Wun-tha-nu, a former Rangoon high school student. "But carrying weapons is not the worst thing. We (students) are also used for human land mine detectors, walking point everywhere we go."

Both Asia Watch and Amnesty International have verified this, with one of the more recent, detailed reports showing up in the 26 May 1990 *Bangkok Post*. With other brutalities and as many as 28,000 political prisoners in jail, Asia Watch has declared the Burmese government one of the worst abusers of human rights on earth.

These "human land mine detector" tactics cause moral problems for the Karens, as the Burmese students have spilled a lot of their own blood in demonstrating

baddest thing that ever lived, at least for a few seconds, until something even louder and badder could take over.

Suddenly the screaming stopped, as if everything had become confused. A new, different sound had begun. The Karen fighters were gathered nearby singing hymns — Christian hymns in the middle of the jungle, with a hostile army on the doorstep.

I was just about to go take a closer look when Ba Thin walked up to ask if I would be joining the KNLA (Karen National Liberation Army) fighters on a patrol in the morning. With the jungle life screaming it up again, it suddenly became time to think about getting the fatigues out, time to prepare for meeting the evil Burmese army



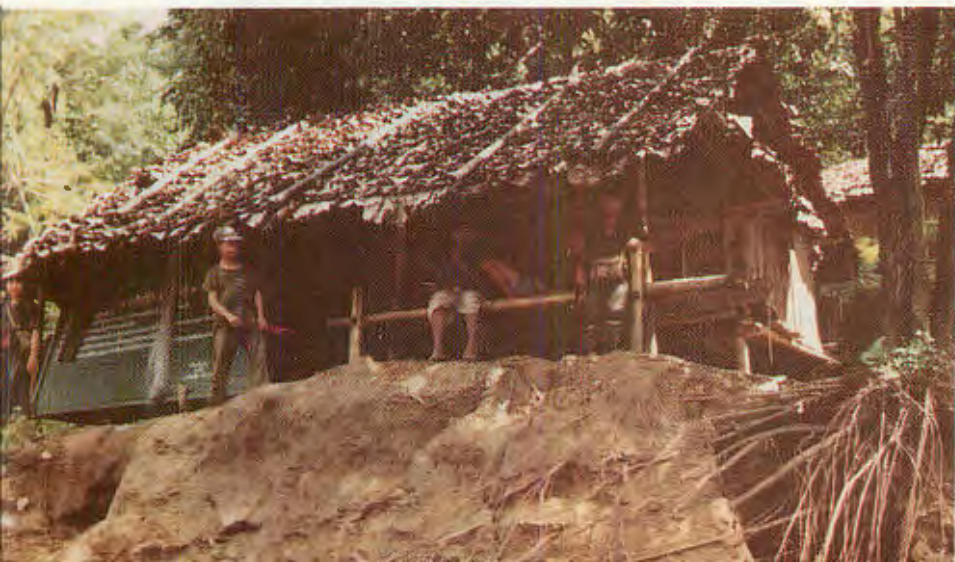
Author begins to revive during boat ride to Manerplaw after hellish trek through jungle.

warmer.

The major hand-signalled, and we slowly and methodically closed in to form a small group. He squatted down before us, as serious as ever. Burmese troops had been spotted in the area: We were going to set up an ambush. Staring at the M79 grenade launcher kid in front of me, I was trying to form a coherent thought. Let's see, ambush, OK, ambush in the bush, George Bush, ambush, OK, a bird in the bush, what are we doing? Oh yeah, ambush, etc. My brain was getting hot.

This would be the first of three ambushes we would set up over the next few hours, each on a different route of the three the Burmese army could take. After quickly assuming positions, the Karen fighters became absolutely frozen in the bush, like bits and pieces of the jungle they were hiding in. More than once, running around with my cameras trying to get some decent shots, I nearly stepped right on somebody, not seeing them in broad daylight until the last possible second. Finally, I settled down, determined to be as still as the

Checkpoint on way to Manerplaw. Armed Karens check all boat traffic heading toward their base. No formal ID is issued; visitors must talk their way through each checkpoint.



Karens, though I doubt I ever was.

An hour or so passed at the first ambush site and nothing happened, save the screaming of a million bugs. With three possible routes to cover, the major began growing restless thinking that the Burmese could pass right by us on a route we weren't prepared to attack. We silently moved to a nearby hillside, crawling and sliding to get a fix on one of the other possibilities, a small creek flowing 10 meters below. The Karens again became like stones, their weapons zeroed in and ready to explode on whatever happened to move down the little creek.

Time crept by, and the major again grew restless. Like any man trying to do three things at once, when he was doing one thing, he began to think about the other two, never able to do all three simultaneously. After what must have been another hour, he took out his walkie-talkie and whispered back and forth with HQ. We were moving out again.

Following a slow, 20-minute sneak through the jungle underbrush, we were again set up, this time with fighters in the trees, who were at least able to see two of the three routes.

A few minutes after assuming our attack positions, something was happening ... someone was moving. I couldn't figure out what was going on. The movement was way too close, and unusual. For a second I thought the Burmese were right here — next to us — like we had walked into some kind of trap, and now we were going to die. I looked up. A Karen fighter was coming down from his tree. This was the movement. It didn't seem right. The Karens seemed to have an effective system of communication using hand signals. I stared at him coming down.

The major sort of stared at him too, perhaps as puzzled as I was, then went over. They spoke from mouth to ear for a moment, back and forth. The other fighters never gave them a glance, their children's eyes on the path and their small fingers on their triggers as if stuck with glue. The major silently crossed over to his second-

GAG ME WITH A CHICKEN

Being on the Burmese side of the Thai-Burmese border during wartime is exciting, but there's plenty of action to be had on the Thai side as well. If you get bored with watching Burmese troops chase Karens through Thai villages, for example, you can have fun with other exciting games.

A great game, played only in Thailand, is one usually called, "Gag Me With a Chicken." You play it while eating. You see, occasionally the Thais like to chop up a chicken, bones and all, so that it looks as though it has been through an electric blender. No one (including the Thais) knows why they do this, and no one (including the Thais) knows why they don't just stop doing it.

The technique for chopping the chicken in this way is nearly as interesting as the game itself, and is followed virtually throughout Thailand. Before starting, the chicken chef first drinks a pint bottle of Thai Mekong Whiskey. As effects set in, the chef grabs his sharpest knives and throws the boiled chicken on the counter (usually with an evil look in his eyes).

Thinking of taxes, in-laws, etc., the first wild blows are delivered to the chicken. After another bottle of Mekong (in some parts of the country, two more), the chef has worked himself into a frenzy. Now thinking of the possibility of Sompot Chitlahoon (the Thai version of Jesse Jackson) becoming president of Thailand, knives flying wildly in both hands, the chicken is whacked uncontrollably for between 45 minutes and an hour.

When this thing makes it to the table, we're not talking about a chicken with a few large and distinguishable bones, something the Colonel might recognize. Nope. Sorry. Not anymore. We're talking about mercilessly hacked pieces of flesh with thousands of tiny razors hidden inside.

This makes no sense, of course, but it does make a fun game at dinner. The object of "Gag Me With a Chicken" is to eat a piece of the chicken without dying. If you gag and die, you're out. You're also out if you gag and have to go choking away from the table. If you choke up and spit bones on other players (the people you're eating with), you have to go find what's left of the chef, and start a conversation about the virtues of sobriety and vegetarianism.

To win is quite a challenge. After the meal, for all those who aren't dead, the thousands of tiny bone fragments left on the plates are counted. The person with the most, wins. It's all very exciting. Really.

(Note: There is a sort of "back door" way of winning at the game. A player penalized by having to go talk with the chef has the chance of eventually being redeemed. That player is given the total number of bone razors left on his or her plate at the time of the gagging incident, plus 500 "bone points" if he or she can get the chef to bring a free round of drinks.) *Bon appetit.* — J.K.



Young Karen freedom fighter moves cautiously along path often used (and watched) by Burmese army.

in-command, another major, and talked with him. Some hand signals were given. We were moving out again.

I didn't know what this was all about until we were grouped together again, back on the little road we had used to get here, wherever "here" was. Then came the news: The kid in the tree had spotted some shacks where there was supposed to be nothing but jungle. The Burmese army had moved in next door. They were here, near Manerplaw (and getting closer by the day, so it seemed).

The Burmese Army Was Next Door

Body now drained of sweat and starting to get a little light-headed, I listened to the

kid serving as my interpreter say, "Enemy camp. We attack. Camp attack. Attack camp. Enemy camp." OK. That was clear enough. The Karens were going to waste the place. And off we slithered, moving even more cautiously than before, ready for anything.

In the KNLA, a kid does whatever he is best at. In this case, for example, of the 18 or so fighters with me, the kid who fires the RPG-2 the best is the kid who carries the RPG-2. This makes perfect sense, of course, but in a lot of armies nothing makes sense at all. The KNLA made sense, and I felt comfortable, if a little spacy in the heat, watching the Karens snake up the road.

Whatever it was the Burmese had con-

structed, it was not hidden very well. Two shacks were plainly visible 20 meters down a little path veering from the road. We moved in.

We couldn't see anyone, but while the Karens were assuming their attack positions, an intermittent humming sound could be heard from one of the shacks, barely breaking through the sound of the screaming insects. Twenty seconds later, with everyone in position, the major came over to tell Scoggin and me to keep out of their way. We began digging-in behind a small pile of dirt to the right of the Karens.

Senses on overdrive and expecting some kind of attack from the path we came in on, Scoggin and I fixed our AKs on that. A minute or two went by, the major again whispering on his walkie-talkie. Another moment passed. Then the waiting stopped: the RPG-2 kid came to life and let loose. An explosion ripped the jungle air. From the corner of my eye, I could see serious destruction befalling the little shacks. Simultaneously, automatic weapons fire burst from everyone else. Noise went wild, and in 10 seconds, it was over.

Nothing at all came from the shacks. All was quiet, even most of the incessant jungle racket. The three or four best Karen marksmen jumped to an open position, protecting the rest as they stormed to what was left of the shacks. There was apparently little left in one piece, however, as the Karens came back to the road with the first smiles I had seen all day. My Karen interpreter came back to say that the shacks were being used as some kind of storehouse or communications post. (What he really said was, "Radios. No more radios. Radios gone. No more.")

"OK, that's good," I answered, smiling like everyone else.

The Karens had delivered a decent blow, keeping their oppressors a little farther away, a little less effective, at least for another day. But for the Karens, there may not be a whole lot of days left. That night, unwinding back in Manerplaw, I was walking with Ba Thin, the general secretary.

"This place is so beautiful," I said.

Karen with Chinese-made Type 56-1 assault rifle during ambush patrol.



DEATH AND DUST IN THE WIND

No day is an especially good day to be a student in Rangoon, Burma, but 8 August 1988 was worse than most.

It wasn't so much that the textbooks were circa 1949 with carefully removed chapters. It wasn't having to pledge life and body to the Party and to the State. It wasn't even being trapped in a grungy concrete classroom with only a continuation of socialist misery to look forward to after graduating.

The day of 8 August 1988 was even worse than that. According to *Newsweek* (international edition), 3 October 1988, "Death was everywhere ... The full extent of the carnage may never be known. Soldiers hurriedly cleared bodies from the streets, carting them off in military trucks for swift and anonymous disposal.

"Witnesses at the cemetery said they heard the cries of shooting victims who had been brought to Kyandaw while they were still alive — and were cremated along with the corpses.

On this day, known as "8-8-88" to the Burmese, anything even remotely resembling a student demonstrating for freedom and democracy was fair game. According to Western diplomats in Rangoon at the time, the Burmese army killed between 1,500 and 3,000 students on this day alone. More were shot down the next day, including dozens of Buddhist monks, who by this time were protesting the killing of the students the day before.

On 8 August 1990, in the Karen National Union (KNU) headquarters of Manerplaw, Burma, a little ceremony was held in remembrance of this massacre. As anyone who has lost brothers and friends fighting for freedom, such as in Vietnam, knows, describing just what is felt at this kind of thing is never easy — perhaps even impossible.

Assembled here, in one of the most ignored areas on earth, were perhaps 150 Burmese students who had fled their homes and families in Rangoon, along with everything they had known, for a single, yet extremely potent reason: To take up arms against the Burmese government to fight for freedom with the Karens.

Bo Mya, president of the Karen state of Kawthoolei, with leaders of other rebel ethnic groups, gave speeches, and then the whole thing went intense. Drums and electric guitars came out. Leaders of the ABSDF (All Burma Students' Democratic Front), crying and outraged, came out. The mood of the place changed instantly. Tears pouring down, with many friends lost to Burmese army bullets, the student

leaders were half screaming, half crying, through their brief times at the microphone. The atmosphere went electric, and ice cold. Burmese students and rebel ethnic group leaders became frozen in the intensity. Nearly everyone in the building had lost someone in this struggle, a brother or a friend — but all to Burmese army bullets.

Just when it seemed that the rage and emotion had hit its peak, at which point the student fighters would go screaming into the jungle in search of anything even remotely resembling the Burmese army, the guitars kicked in. Things took yet a new twist.

The students began singing songs of freedom, individual rights and democracy. With this came an aura of determined resolve, but with the exact same intensity as before. The feeling this provoked was at once both peaceful and severe.

There is really no way to describe the experience. There were many songs, many people crying, and then one song, the last, nearly blew the roof off. To the music of "Dust in the Wind," by the American rock group Kansas, but with much more powerful, meaningful lyrics of freedom, everyone began to lose it.

My San Francisco-based, punk rock-hardened photographer came staggering out of the place, literally in tears. As for me, at that particular moment my mind was a total blank. It was simply too much. Staring at AK-armed teenagers guarding the place, my mind lost in the clouds, all I could write in my notebook was, "Freedom. Very powerful. What a fucking trip. Freedom."

On my way out, the last thing I remember seeing was the large sign on the wall, which read, "Master Fear and Pain, Overcome Obstacles, Unite Your Efforts, Annihilate the Enemy." The last thing I remember hearing was a former Burmese student, who walked up to me and said, "Our lives [mean] nothing. We will die [for] freedom, and no one will know. Your country does not care. Only we care. We will fight. We will die."

I smiled and nodded. He was right. "Dead right," so to speak. No media organization in the world with a wisp of care for freedom should have missed what happened here tonight. But they did, and probably couldn't care less. It happened deep in the jungle, and the only journalists there were those from *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. But at least the event was covered by somebody. Thank God. — J.K.



Karens on route to ambush site.

"What will happen if the Burmese take it?"

"Well, there is no way we will give up," he answered, making me think of what the Norwegian woman had said back in Thailand. "If we lose Manerplaw, we will just go deeper into the jungle and become mobile ... Until we have our freedom, there is simply nothing else we can do."

Starting off at the misty mountains now darkening around us, I thought of a bureaucrat I had seen in the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok and what he had said:

Leader of ambush patrol communicates with Karen HQ via walkie-talkie.



"The Karens must first surrender, then we will let them have freedom — it's a promise." Thinking of that here, I wanted to laugh, except just about then it occurred to me that if the Burmese fulfilled their other promise, of wiping this place out, I probably would never see my kids from the 7th Brigade again.

I told Ba Thin I wanted to be alone.

John Kreiger has spent eight of the past 12

years living, working, and fooling around in East and Southeast Asia. He speaks Chinese, Japanese, some Korean, some Arabic, and is currently re-learning English. After five years in the U.S. Navy, Kreiger is now finishing a Master's degree of Journalism at the University of Colorado. SOF currently carries him on the masthead as Special Projects Coordinator — which means we use and abuse him in our editorial department. ✂

DESERT SHIELD: ON THE FRONT LINE

Photo: Bouvet/Liaison

**Sheridans
and
Abrams,
M16s and
CBR gear ...**

Photo: Durand Sygma



As we said in an earlier issue, by the time you read this U.S. forces may be at war in the Middle East. We hope so —and we hope not. Saddam Hussein must be met with and stopped by force, and right now we're the primary force in the theater capable of doing just that. What happens now in the Middle East will shape the world to come in the next decades, and the United States must reassert its place as the key player in controlling events — or we'll continue to face other Saddam Husseins, in other places, at other times.

But for those of us who have trod the bloody paths of combat, the thought of our young men and women scattered dead across the sands of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq make us pause and think back to our own experiences in war. There's no glory in dying; no parades for those who come home in body bags.

We hope and pray it doesn't have to come to that. There may be another solution that pulls us back from the abyss of war. But if war does come, then these are the people who will fight it. They're good, the best this country's ever fielded. We're proud to print their pictures in this magazine. No matter what you think of the situation in the Middle East, you should be proud of them too. They are, after all, yours. ✕



Photo: Langevin/Sygma

Photo: PAQ DeFries

Photo: Langevin/Sygma





Photos: PAO/DeFries

**Dragons
and
Mortars,
Kevlar
and
M9s ...**





Photo: PAO/DeFries



Photo: Ferry/Liaison



Photo: Eric Micheletti



Photo: Langevin/Sygma



**Mark 19s and HE
... are only as
good as the men
who use them.**

TURNIN' AND BURNIN'

*SOF Shoots It Out With
Top Gun Pilots*

by Ross Simpson

THE day of 23 May 1986 will go down in history for the U. S. Navy. It's the day the movie *Top Gun* premiered and it's still paying big dividends for Uncle Sam.

"Yeah, it was a big motivation movie," said Lieutenant David Petri of Waterloo, Illinois, who saw *Top Gun* for the first time in May 1986 when he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy.

"I went to a lot of airshows this summer, and everybody asked about *Top Gun*," added Lt. Petri, a Radar Intercept Officer (RIO) who, along with Lt. Jim Qualls, an F-14 pilot from Dearborn Heights, Michigan, was chosen by the commanding officer of VF-31 to attend the Navy's prestigious Fighter Weapons School at Miramar Naval Air Station north of San Diego.

"The movie was fantasy, but reality is the great equalizer," said Qualls, who earned the gold wings of a naval aviator a year after the movie was released. "Once you've lived it, you forget about the Hollywood stuff. If you start doing things you saw in the movie like buzzing the tower, you'd loose your wings," he

laughed.

"When you're in the airplane turnin' and burnin' you don't have all of that rock 'n' roll music going through your head," said Qualls as he and Petri strapped on their F-14 for some ACM (Air Combat Maneuvering). "Nothing but the sound of wind whistling past the windscreen," Qualls said. Qualls and his squadron mates all agree on one thing: "*Top Gun* was a great recruiting flick."

"Sure, it motivated me to join the Navy," said Lt. JG Joe McKee, who graduated from the University of Maryland in 1986 with a degree in aerospace engineering.

When McKee was feeling down in AOCS (Aviation Officer Candidate School) in Pensacola, Florida, he'd pop a cassette of *Top Gun* into the VCR. "It'd pump you up and get you going again," said McKee who, like actor Rick Rossovich in the movie, had hopes of being an F-14 driver, but when one of his eyes checked out 20/25, he slid to the backseat like "Slider."

"I think the movie changed a lot of

young people's minds," said Lt. Jeff Perkins, who recently returned from a six-month deployment in the Mediterranean with VF-31. "I still have kids at airshows come up to me that know every word in the movie and ask me questions about Goose and Maverick." But there are no characters like that in the Tomcatters (VF-31), one of 12 F-14 squadrons assigned to the Master Jet Base at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

"Most of the call signs are degrading," said Perkins, who's been saddled with the call sign "Gumby" until something else sticks. "Call signs are never flattering like Iceman," said Perkins.

Pilots and RIOs acquire call signs for various reasons. It may have something to do with their last name, or something they do. For example, "Boots" for blowing tires on landing, "Speed Brake" for a pair of protruding ears.

"Flash" Gordon

"My name was the biggest factor," said Commander Royal Pope Gordon II, the XO



F-14 launches Phoenix missile. Photo: U.S. Navy

(Executive Officer) of the Tomcatters, the second oldest fighter squadron in the Navy which has proudly displayed a caricature of Felix the Cat on the tails of its airplanes since 1946. With the last name of Gordon, there was only one moniker for a guy like him — "Flash."

Although call signs aren't copyrighted, there's an unwritten law in the Navy that two pilots or RIOs can't have the same handle. So Gordon's little brother, who flies F-14s on the West Coast, is called "Flesh" by his squadron mates.

Flash Gordon is not only among the "best of the best," having graduated from Top Gun in 1979, but is also regarded by his peers as the best F-14 driver in the Atlantic fleet. With more than 3,800 flight hours and 600 carrier arrested landings under his belt, and a chest full of medals, including three Navy Commendation Medals (two with Combat "V" for leading the F-14 cover on the combined services raid on Libya in the spring of 1986), Gordon is the Navy's senior F-14 flight demonstration pilot. The day I flew with Commander Gordon, he made the Tomcat

"growl," like a mountain lion on the prowl.

It was a hot, humid afternoon at NAS Oceana when we walked to Gordon's red-tailed F-14 on the ramp, one of only two Tomcats in the squadron that hasn't been painted blue and gray camouflage.

Built at a cost of \$36 million per aircraft, the F-14 can climb 30,000 feet per minute, fly at Mach 2 plus (twice the speed of sound) and haul 7 tons of weaponry, including six long-range AIM-54F Phoenix missiles, four medium-range AIM-7 Sparrow missiles and four short-range heat-seeking AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

The Phoenix has proven to be the world's most effective long-range air-to-air missile. Hundreds have been fired with an unprecedented 85% success rate. Tomcats, the only aircraft armed with Phoenix missiles, have scored kills at ranges over 110 nautical miles.

A 20mm MK61A1 Vulcan cannon slung low on the left side of the nose gives the Tomcat added bite. Pilots usually set the gun limiter at 50 rounds. Since the F-14 only carries 500 rounds of 20 mike-mike,

pilots have 10 trigger pulls before going "Winchester," out of ammo.

The Tomcat can handle a variety of missions including fleet air defense and reconnaissance flights without compromising its dogfighting capabilities. A central computer automatically programs the wing sweep to provide optimum lift for any air speed or flight condition, allowing the pilot to devote full attention to the job at hand: killing the enemy before he kills him.

Airborne Beast

Tipping the scales at more than 25 tons fully armed, fueled and manned with a pilot and RIO, the F-14 is a "beast" when airborne. Literature from its maker, Grumman Aerospace Corporation, proudly proclaims, "Dogfighting is right up our alley."

The Tomcat employs the most advanced and powerful fighter radar ever developed, the AWG-9 — pronounced "Awwg, like hog." Operated by the RIO, it has the capability to track 24 targets continuously and can fire missiles at six different targets simultaneously.



Flash Gordon and the author after their victorious mission. Photo: courtesy author

The powerful radar can discern fighter-size targets at more than 100 nautical miles across a 120-mile wide scan sector. The look-down/shoot-down radar can even separate low-flying targets from surface clutter. An independent search-and-track system with a 10:1 magnification television camera tucked under the nose provides visual target identification at ranges of 10 miles or more, far beyond the pilot's eyes.

Before walking to the aircraft, Commander Gordon briefed me and another aircrew who would tangle with us some 40

to 110 miles above the Atlantic Ocean.

Lieutenant Chris Caron, call sign "Crash," for totalling a rental van during AOCS in Pensacola, and Gordon's regular RIO, Lieutenant Commander Tom Reitmeyer, call sign "Rooter," a handle he earned for climbing into the sewers of Lisbon during a port call in Portugal, listened attentively as the XO rattled off details of the upcoming engagement.

"We'll take off in full afterburners on Runway 5, turn right after cleaning up the jets, intercepting Oceana 175 radial outbound and climb to 15,000 feet as we head to our operating arena offshore," said Gordon. "If we have any problems out

Tomcatter goes inverted over the Mediterranean. Photo: courtesy author

there today, we'll talk about them. In the case of a ground abort, we'll stay with the aircraft."

Unlike a lot of aircraft, the Tomcat is very long (62 feet, 8½ inches) with wide wings (64 feet, 1½ inches) and a wide stance (16 feet, 5 inches between the main landing gear). "F-14s don't flip if you have to abort on takeoff," said Gordon, "so unless there's a fire in the cockpit, or I flat die on you, you'll stay with the aircraft."

Before donning a fireproof Nomex flight suit, G-harness, survival vest and steel-toed boots, I spent time in the RIO trainer learning how to "hook em," get missile lock so the pilot could "fry em," burn a bogey (Bad Guy) with a missile. Talk about confusion, I've never seen so many dials and switches.

The instrument panel contains controls and displays for the AWG-9 Airborne Weapon Control System and navigational flight instruments. Armament controls, sensor controls, keyboard panels, and communications panels are on the left console. The right console contains an ECM/ Navigational display, ECM (Electronic Counter Measure) controls, data link controls and the identification, friend or foe (IFF) panel.

Between your legs is a joy stick which operates a computer mouse that "locks up" bogeys that appear on the radar scope between your knees.

Every F-14 needs a good driver in the front seat to get into position so the radar

intercept officer can deploy the aircraft's vast array of weapons, but the Tomcat was designed around the RIO in the backseat. Although most backseaters like Rooter couldn't meet the eyesight requirements to become pilots, they don't feel like second class citizens.

"Before anyone can fight 'em (bogeys), we have to find 'em," explained Rooter, who pointed out that three of the five U.S. aces in Vietnam were backseaters.

Flash agreed with Rooter that it takes two to tango in the Tomcat. "You've got to see the bad guys before they see you," he added. "Dogfighting is no game for Helen Keller. You've got to be constantly alert for the unseen bogey, the one who sneaks up on you unobserved and puts you in a hurt locker."

In addition to being good radar operators, RIOs are also good cheerleaders. Especially when it's dark and aircrews are trying to get aboard the boat (carrier) and they can't see anything outside the cockpit.

"Pilots love a moonlit night," said Lt. JG McKee, because moonlight provides pilots with a horizon, limited as it might be. "But if it's pitch black, you could be suckin' wind," added McKee, who tries to keep his pilot pumped.

"I tell him he's the greatest," chuckled "Chunks," who earned his call sign by barfing his brains out in Milan, Italy.

"Potsie" Weber, the newest member of the Tomcatters, says landing aboard an aircraft carrier at night is like putting a postage stamp on your living room floor, and then diving at it, trying to lick it with your tongue.

"There's such a fine line between looking good and bustin' your ass," said Lt. Qualls. "After you call the ball (inform the Landing Signal Officer that you can see the optical landing device on the left side of the ship just up the deck from the LSO platform) you have no depth perception." Other pilots say landing aboard the boat in bad weather is like killing snakes in the cockpit, physically and mentally draining.

"You never feel good about coming aboard at night," said Qualls, who believes the last 20 seconds is equal to a week's work in the civilian sector. Of the 170 arrested carrier landings to his credit, Qualls says between 60 and 70 were night traps. Thank goodness my hop would begin and end on land in daylight.

Dog Fight

It was in the 90s when Flash and I climbed up the side of his F-14 and strapped in.

Oblivious to the deafening roar of jet engines starting up around us, Flash went through his checklist as the Tomcat's twin Pratt and Whitney turbofan engines sprang to life. The turbofans, which generate 20,000 pounds of thrust, each sucked up condensation from the air conditioning unit and created tiny tornadoes in front of the ramps, the engine intakes.

After lowering the canopy on the cock-

pit, we armed our ejection seats. The zero-zero ejection system is designed to hurl aircrews 175 feet into the air even when sitting on the ground or deck. Ejection seats are powered by three thrust-producing cartridges plus a rocket motor. Sitting in a seat that's been armed is like sitting on six sticks of dynamite.

Below the cockpit a nine-man ground crew made its final checks before disconnecting us from the APU (auxiliary power unit) and giving us the "thumbs up" sign. No matter whether you're on land or at sea, you hear nothing but praise from pilots for the ground crews. "These \$36 million planes would be just pieces of junk if these guys didn't tinker with 'em day and night," said Commander Gordon.

While waiting at the end of the runway for clearance to take off, the Tomcat appeared to be cooking on the concrete, shimmering in a wave of heat. But the air conditioning kept us cool. Once at 35,000 feet where the air is below freezing, the AC would keep us warm inside the cockpit.

"If you're ready, we'll hit it," warned

in the burners. "Can you feel 'em kicking in?" asked Gordon. Yeah! I could feel them, Flash. They made me feel like I was riding a rocket sled.

I wasn't physically prepared to absorb 6½Gs as Gordon rolled left and turned the Tomcat on a dime. The torso harness pumped up like a giant blood pressure cuff on my body, squeezing my guts and shoving them up into my chest cavity. I tried to videotape the gut-wrenching turn with a camcorder, but couldn't hold it. The camera weighed about 70 pounds.

The Gs slammed me back into my seat so violently it was all I could do to stay conscious by grunting. Blood was rushing from my head, my eyes were sagging and I felt like an elephant was sitting on my chest. Just when I was fading to black, Gordon leveled off. Whew, I could hear myself hyperventilating as I gulped 100% pure oxygen and Flash turned the Tomcat on its twin tails and went ballistic.

"I'm going to convert that airspeed to altitude," explained the XO, "and then come back over the top." Thank goodness



F-14 produces a vapor cone as it breaks the sound barrier. Photo: courtesy author

Flash, as he went to afterburners before releasing the brakes.

The Tomcat lunged forward and accelerated like a slingshot dragster. "100 knots, rotating at 130, and we've got liftoff," said Gordon as two glowing orange afterburners and a trail of fumes marked our ascent.

Heading out to meet the enemy (Crash and Rooter), we did a 360-degree windup maneuver to see how well the F-14 sustains Gs at low altitude in full afterburners. It also gives the pilot a good indication of how much punishment his passenger can take before he pukes or passes out.

"Okay, we're at 5,000 feet, hitting about 180 knots," said Flash as he stroked

I had declined Gordon's offer to have steak and green peppers at the Officer's Club. I would have lost my lunch at this point for sure.

"Well, now that we've gotten limbered up, let's go to work," said Gordon as he scanned the horizon for Crash and Rooter. "They'll be coming supersonic at us soon," he said as I scanned the radar scope in the rear.

"There they are below us," I yelled, as Gordon rolled right and pointed the slide-wing F-14 down in a steep G-gathering dive. In a dogfight, regardless of the advantages you might have, if you can't visually detect and keep sight of the opponent, you'll lose. The F-14 cockpit and one-piece bubble canopy design provides unmatched all-around visibility.



VF-31 planes (12 F-14s) on deck of USS *Forrestal* as it passes through the Suez Canal. Photo: courtesy author

Before I could blink, we were engaged in a rolling scissors, trying to flush Crash out in front of us by decreasing our airspeed and creating angles that his airplane couldn't hack. But as we decreased airspeed, the dogfight rapidly degenerated into a descending "toiletbowl" maneuver as we got lower and lower.

At one point both F-14s were falling like leaves as we pressed the fight, too close to fire missiles or guns, but Commander Gordon reminded me, "You don't always have to kill a guy with missiles or bullets to gain a victory. You can force him into the ground. The hard deck is the ultimate kill." And the first engagement ended when Crash hit hard deck at 10,000 feet.

In the second engagement roles were reversed, and we became the hunted. Crash started from a position of strength. But Flash showed the younger pilot a "little bit of leg," in what the XO called a "bogey-gathering turn," and pulled into his pursuer and came back over the top, forcing another slow fight.

Crash was really hauling the mail as he bored in on the starboard quarter trying to get missile lock on us. I was screaming,

"Here he comes," like Goose in the movie when Viper was about to show Goose and Maverick they had a lot to learn about dogfighting. Just as Crash closed in for the kill, Flash "Showed me some of that pilot stuff," and put the old "Maverick Move" on Crash by pulling the stick back into his lap, causing the entire F-14 to act like a speed brake. As we shot up nose high, Crash slid under us. "It's a sick feeling for the hunter to become the hunted," said Lt. Caron, who loves to fly against the XO because he learns something every time he goes up against the best of the best.

Two weeks later in a rematch, Crash and Chunks put a hurt on Flash and Rooter in a slow fight, sending a simulated "Burst of BBs," — 20mm cannon fire — across their canopy with a snapshot.

As neat as the flying was in *Top Gun*, it's not anything like the real thing according to pilots like Lt. Chris Greene, who hopes to be selected as the squadron's next Top Gun candidate in January 1991.

Like McKee and Weber, Greene, whose call sign is "Puke" for obvious reasons, said the movie definitely had an effect on his decision to join the Navy. "It painted a certain picture of the Navy I was looking for when I got in, but of course since then I've found out it's a bit different."

Although Greene says a decision on

whether to extend his current commitment is "classified," he is having second thoughts. Greene's wife, Paula, an H-46 helicopter pilot in the Navy, is often out on an eight-month cruise when he's at home and vice versa. Unlike many married couples in the Navy, the Greens were able to spend some private time together in his room aboard the USS *Forrestal* when Paula flew a load of supplies to the carrier on deployment in the Med. But when she deploys to the Indian Ocean in January, Chris is not going.

Pilots Bailing Out

Family separation is the reason Lt. Mike Olson of Fort Worth, Texas, got out of the Navy in August, and applied for a job with Delta Airlines. Olson wants to spend more time with his wife and three young daughters. The fact the airlines are hiring former military pilots made it easier for the 30-year-old Top Gun graduate to leave his first love — flying F-14s.

More airline pilots were hired in 1989 than in any single year since deregulation, according to information released by Future Aviation Professionals of America, an Atlanta-based aviation career information service for pilots, flight attendants and maintenance personnel.

More than 13,000 professional pilots



were hired last year, although the record-breaking year was skewed somewhat by strong hiring at Eastern Airlines following a strike in March.

"If 1990 hiring trends follow the roller coaster pattern over the last five years," said Wes Powell, information center manager, "We're looking at another good year."

Most of the newly hired pilots come from the military. During 1989, more than 89% of the military pilots hired by major airlines came from the Air Force and Navy, 70% and 19% respectively.

If Chris Greene gets out of the Navy in a year and a half, he has no desire to fly commercial jetliners. "I got into the service for an entirely different reason than most guys did, and therefore the airlines don't appeal to me, even though it's more lucrative." Greene, a philosophy major from Tennessee University in Ohio, says he joined the Navy "because it was the most dangerous thing I could do."

Lieutenant Chris Caron from South Windsor, Connecticut, spent four years as a banker and an account executive, but couldn't see himself doing that for 20 or 30 years. He too looked around for the most exciting thing he could do, and flying F-14s filled his need for speed.

"It's more than a job, it's an adven-

TOP: F-14 turnin' and burnin'. Photo: U.S. Navy

ABOVE: Flight of the F-14s with wings swept back. Photo: U.S. Navy

ture," said Caron, who has no desire to fly commercially.

"We're flying the leading edge of technology here," he told me as he watched gun camera footage of his flight with Commander Gordon. "When you get

out and go to the airlines, you drive a big airbus basically. None of the yankin' and bankin' we do," said Crash.

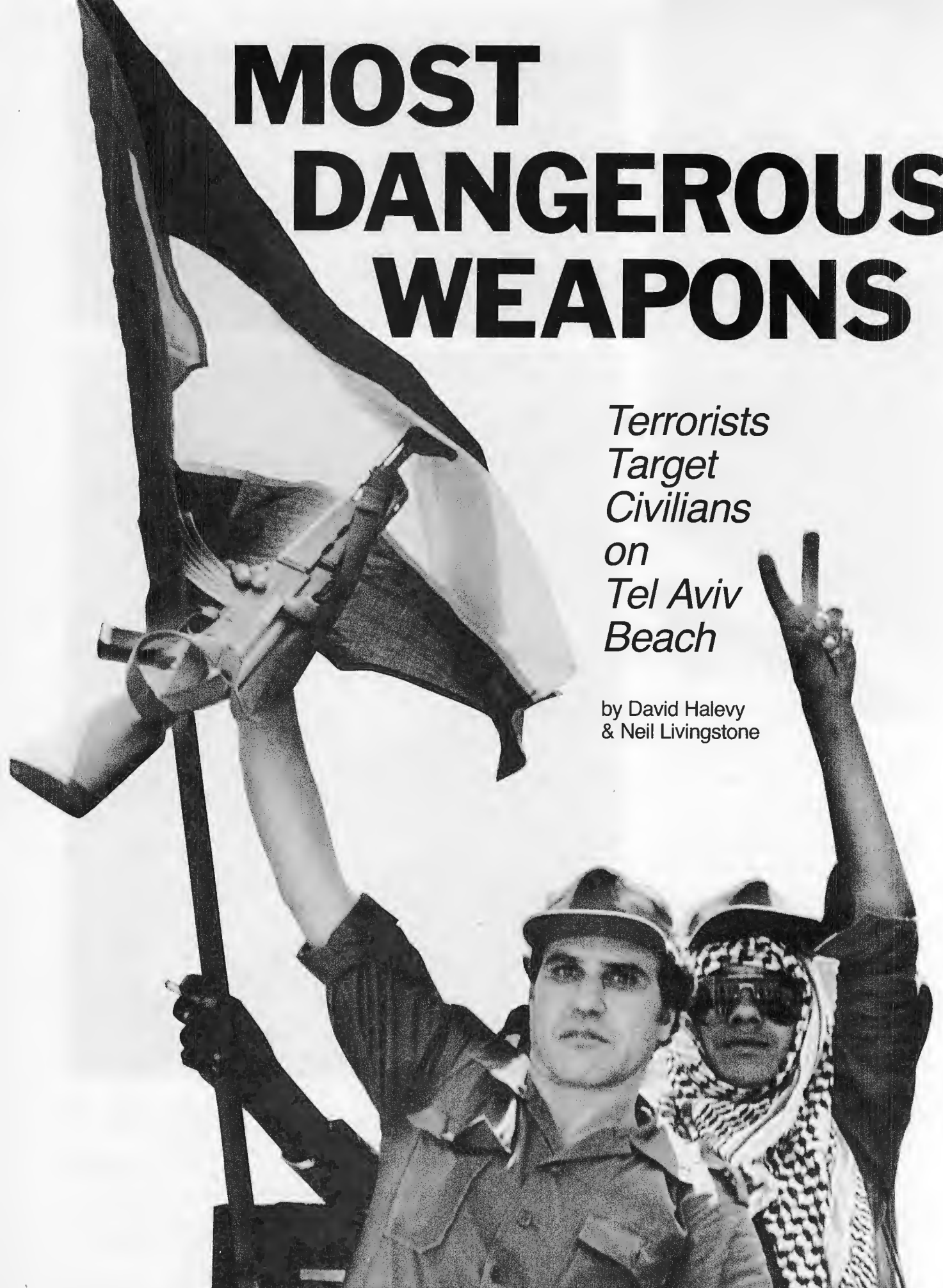
As Navy lieutenants on flying status, Greene and Caron make about \$36,000 a year. If they extend another seven years, they would receive about \$84,000 in bonuses: enough incentive to keep Caron in uniform, but not enough to keep Olson in.

Continued on page 86

MOST DANGEROUS WEAPONS

*Terrorists
Target
Civilians
on
Tel Aviv
Beach*

by David Halevy
& Neil Livingstone



IT was a dark night in the eastern Mediterranean. The moon had come out late, and was only a narrow rim of light, high overhead. A stiff wind was blowing from the east, pushing large undulating waves toward the Israeli coast.

The mother ship rolled and pitched in heavy seas as six large speedboats were unloaded over its side with deck cranes. One of the boats was badly damaged in the operation and had to be abandoned, but the other five hit the water in good shape. In each of four boats were four heavily armed Palestinian terrorists. The fifth boat, manned by a single terrorist, carried fuel and was designed to serve as a tanker.

Engines cranked to life and the five speedboats began plowing through the tossing sea toward the Israeli coast, which lay a little over 200 miles to the east. The mother ship turned and disappeared into the night, presumably returning to Libya, where its journey had originated.

With the exception of the boat designed as a tanker, the boats were armed with small "Katushka" rocket launchers, SA-7 "Strella" anti-aircraft missiles and heavy machine guns. The terrorists carried AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenades, hand grenades and a lot of ammo.

Each of them had been provided with a map of Israel's coast, with the Jaffa lighthouse clearly marked. The lighthouse would serve as a landmark to guide them to shore through the darkness. Also marked were two of the targets they were supposed to hit: the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel, located on the beach, and the U.S. Embassy, about 100 yards from shore. They also had maps of the beaches near Tel Aviv, expected to be crowded with sun-seekers, as well as pictures of the city's marina and promenade.

The operation's planners estimated that the little flotilla would reach Israel between 0500 and 0600. Instructions were simple. The terrorists were to approach a predetermined landing site with heavy machine guns blazing, killing and wounding as many people on the beach as possible. They were then to fire on the U.S. Embassy and storm the Sheraton, killing most of those they encountered, but taking some as hostages.

There was no real escape plan. The terrorists were simply told to "grab as many cars as possible" and, together with

their hostages, make way to the Arab village of Nablus on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In effect, the terrorists had been given a one-way ticket. Their masters did not expect them to return, and most were aware they were on a suicide mission.

At 0445, as dawn broke over the Israeli coast, the raiders were some 35 miles from their targets. It was at this moment that an Israeli missile boat picked up two almost indistinguishable blips on its radar. An urgent message was flashed to Israeli naval headquarters inside the defense complex of downtown Tel Aviv, and the chase was on!

Origin of the Attack

Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed Yusuf, deputy commander of the terrorist operation, was born in the Syrian province of Qunaytirah 28 years ago. In 1977 he joined Fatah, the largest single organization of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), headed by Yasir Arafat. Somewhere along the way, in line with his profession, he adopted the *nom de guerre* of Abu al-Shash. Around 1979, however, he became disenchanted with Fatah, and transferred his allegiance to the PLF (Palestine Liberation Front), Abbas faction. He then spent about seven years in Iraq, where the PLF maintains its main operational headquarters.

In October 1988, he and a team of 20 PLF fighters were sent to Libya for specialized training in preparation for a major terrorist operation. Four of the men were veterans of other Palestinian combat organizations who had switched to the PLF, but the other 16 were new recruits with few skills and little or no military training.

In Libya, they were billeted in a secluded barracks inside the naval base at Benghazi, where they were given an 18-month course for naval commandos. Their main instructors were Lieutenant Colonel Zuhayr, chief of Libyan naval commando training, and Lt. Col. Ali, commander of the Libyan frogman unit. They never learned the last names of either officer, referring to them solely by their rank and first name.

Headquartered in Benghazi, the Libyan frogman unit has a strength of about 200 men and is primarily defensive in its

mission, tasked with protecting Libyan ports and jetties. Nevertheless, it also has some offensive capabilities, including sabotage and special operations missions. Although it has never been "bloodied" in combat, the unit enjoys a special status in the Libyan armed forces.

The unit was established with the assistance of the Italian government, which provided instructors to the Khadafi regime. The Libyans spared no expense on equipment, making direct purchases of such items as diving suits, oxygen tanks and snorkeling gear from both Italy and France. In 1983, the unit purchased six two-man Yugoslavian mini-submarines, and later bought six more. The mini-submers are used to penetrate defended ports, and have a reputation for being very reliable. All 12 are believed to still be in service with the Libyan frogman unit.

Italy's role is not surprising, as the country is Libya's largest European trading partner. Although it has a lackluster military history, Italy has excelled in the area of naval special warfare. Italian frogmen were among the best during World War II, and one unit, the 10th Light Flotilla, under the command of Captain Valerio Borghese, even planned a surreptitious attack on New York City's harbor in 1943.

It also should be noted that it was the Italian government that sent its Carabinieri to "rescue" PLF chief Mohammed Zaidan Abbas (Abu Abbas) at the Sigonella Air Base in 1985. This was after American Tomcats forced down an Egypt Air jetliner carrying the PLF terrorists that had hijacked the cruise liner *Achille Lauro*. It was then that the terrorists murdered an elderly, wheelchair-bound American, Leon Klinghoffer. The Carabinieri, acting on orders of former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, surrounded American commandos at the air base and commandeered their PLF prisoners, later permitting Abbas and a high-level PLO official to escape.

According to an Israeli interrogation of Yusuf, the PLF commandos at Benghazi were initially taught basic skills such as how to swim and snorkel, with some training in weapons and explosives. In Yusuf's words, during the second phase of the instruction, "Lt. Col. Ali of the Libyan navy taught us navigation, boat handling, and sea tactics and maneuvers."

By the beginning of May 1990, their training was complete with the unit ready to go operational. "We all knew there would be an operation," Yusuf said, "but they (the instructors) did not specify what it was." Unbeknownst to Yusuf, Abbas and the PLF high command originally planned to carry out the raid on the 42nd anniversary of Israel's independence, 30 April 1990. The date was postponed, however, to coincide with an upcoming Arab summit meeting, scheduled to take place in Baghdad.

There are unconfirmed reports that the Israelis got wind of the planned



Mohammed Abbas, PLF chief who has the reputation of Wile E. Coyote in the Middle East.



independence day attack. According to this version of events, the Israelis passed a strong message to the Libyan government through a European intelligence service, presumably Italian naval intelligence, describing the planned operation and threatening harsh retaliation if it was carried out. The Libyan government, accordingly, ordered the PLF to put the operation on hold until additional steps could be taken to mask its involvement. The plan to use a Libyan naval vessel as the mother ship was scrapped, and the PLF was informed that the terrorists would not be permitted to embark from either Benghazi or Damah.

On 27 May 1990, Abu al-Izz, the deputy commander of the PLF, and its chief of operations, appeared at the Libyan naval base with Abu al-Qasim, the head of the PLF's naval section. Escorted by a car from the Libyan navy, 16 of the 20 trainees were picked up and transported by bus to a deserted beach 80 miles east of Benghazi. Yusuf and his confederates were surprised to find PLF leader Mohammed Abbas and their two Libyan instructors, Ali and Zuhayr, at the location.

"You are going to Tel Aviv," Abu al-Izz told the men. "Attack it. Enter the hotels." Then Abbas gave them a little speech, saying that they "would be given final instructions by Abu al-Izz while on board

the ship." He urged them to do their duty and admonished them not to be wounded in the back, presumably in flight from the Israelis. He concluded by expressing his earnest hope that they would all come back, something he knew was highly improbable. Indeed, he and his Libyan hosts appear to have counted on the Israelis killing the men as an additional way of shrouding the attack in mystery.

Once he finished his pep talk, Abbas embraced each man and added a word or two of encouragement. With Abu al-Izz and Abu al-Qasim, the Palestinian terrorists boarded two rubber dinghies which carried them out to the mother ship. It also appears that one of the Libyan trainers accompanied them. The ship was a small freighter, or "coaster," purchased by the PLF with Libyan money. Weapons and speedboats were already on board. The men were immediately escorted to their cabins below deck, and since it was already dark, none of them were able to identify the name of the ship or see the flag it was flying.

After meeting with his men, Abbas was driven back to Benghazi. The following day, he returned to his headquarters in Baghdad, where the Arab summit was scheduled to get underway.

"The Birds Have Left Their Nest"

Once the terrorists were aboard, the

mother ship set out for Port Said, 710 miles to the east, at the entrance of the Suez Canal. The maritime corridor leading to and from the Suez Canal is always packed with ships, so the little freighter joined the long line of vessels en route to the canal without attracting any special attention. To keep out of sight of air reconnaissance, the terrorists were confined to their quarters.

On 28 May, after being at sea for a full day, Abu al-Izz convened everyone for an operational briefing, where he distributed the maps and photographs. At about 1900 the following night, another meeting was held to deal with any last-minute problems or questions. A short time later, the mother ship began to slow down to put the speedboats over the side. The craft that was damaged in the unloading process was one of two tankers, and was apparently scuttled in mid-sea after the mishap. By 2100 the five boats were in the water and manned by their crews. One of the original 18 terrorists stayed behind, although the reason for his absence is not known. He may have become sick. On the other hand, it may have been a part of the plan.

Once the speedboats were away, it is believed the mother ship alerted Libyan naval headquarters in Benghazi. At approximately 2200, Israeli intelligence intercepted a short, coded phone call from Libya to Baghdad that seems to have been



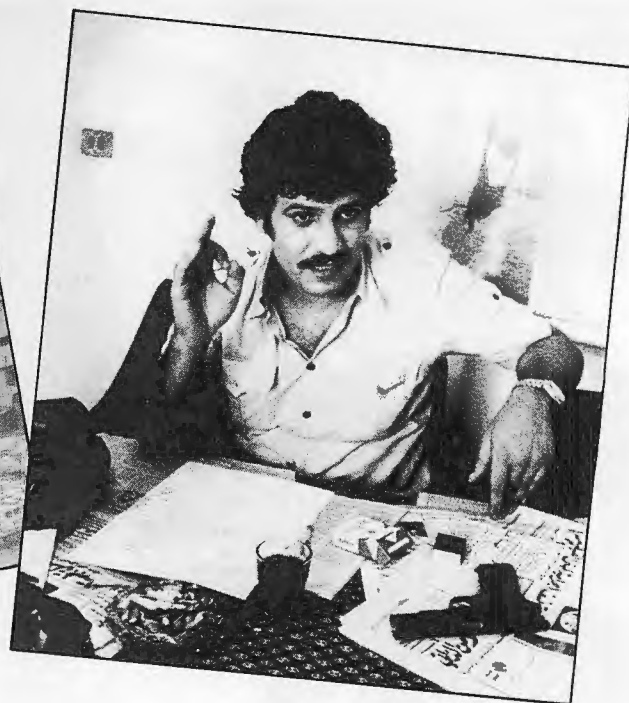
a signal that the operation had commenced. Neither the caller nor the recipient identified themselves. "The birds have left their nest," said the caller from Tripoli, who then hung up. The telephone lines between Tripoli and Baghdad subsequently went dead, with no other significant telephone traffic between the two countries that night.

The mother ship continued steaming toward the Suez Canal for awhile. Then, using the shadow of another ship heading westward, it turned and reversed its track, slipping into the line of ships emerging from the canal. Whether the ship returned to Libya or headed for some other port remains unknown.

Around 0100, the four boats halted for 40 minutes to take on fuel from the tanker. The tanker then left, disappearing into the darkness. At this point, they were approximately 100 miles from Israel. It's possible that the tanker and its lone occupant could have headed for Egypt, abandoning the boat on some deserted beach. The Egyptians, however, never reported recovering an abandoned vessel. It is perhaps more likely that the tanker made its way to Cyprus. Whatever happened, it probably didn't make it back to the mother ship, which by that time would have been too far away.

Less than an hour after getting underway





again, one of the four speedboats experienced mechanical problems and was scuttled, its four occupants transferring to the other boats. Shortly before 0400, yet another broke down and had to be scuttled. As the sun began to break on the eastern horizon, only two boats were still plowing through the turgid waters of the Mediterranean. The terrorists were unevenly divided between the two remaining boats: one boat was carrying 11 terrorists, with four in the other. Despite the setbacks, the men remained committed to the operation. As they drew closer to Israel, with the protective cloak of darkness slowly disappearing around them, tension became almost unbearable.

The Israeli Response

The Israeli navy had been on a high state of alert for some time. AMAN, Israel's military intelligence organization, first heard reports of the PLF team being trained in Libya nearly six months earlier. By the end of February 1990, the reports had been confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt. Many details of the pending operation could not be discerned, however. Nothing was known of the mother ship. Its name, description and port of embarkation were all mysteries. Nor was there any idea of the projected date of the attack. Without such information, the navy was put on alert primarily as a precautionary measure.

Israel routinely tracks ships passing through the Suez Canal, but the addition of one small "coaster" waiting to transit was not sufficient to set off any alarm bells. The two tiny dots on the radar screen, however, were another matter. Naval headquarters became a beehive of activity, as did the air force situation room, three floors underneath the defense complex at Hakirya in Tel Aviv.

No Israeli patrol vessels were in the immediate vicinity of the approaching speedboats. Orders were given to all

available Dvora missile boats to head off the raiders, but it was clear that the interdiction would take place very close to the Israeli coastline. Air force gunships were ordered to take part in the chase, and a flying command post was put in the air. Meanwhile, Israeli commandos began boarding choppers.

As gunships swooped overhead, Israeli naval vessels closed in on the first speedboat, blocking its path and forcing it to change course in a vain effort to elude the closing noose. At 0700, the speedboat apparently ran out of fuel about 2 miles from the beach of Kibbutz Gaash. Without firing a shot, the four terrorists in the boat raised their hands and surrendered. Israeli commandos quickly reached the scene by helicopters and Zodiacs, taking them into custody.

Catching the other speedboat was a different story. Veering to the south, it effectively dodged missiles and machine-gun fire from pursuing Israeli gunships. Then, outrunning Israeli patrol boats, it was able to reach shore at Nitzanim, south of Tel Aviv.

Before horrified early morning sun-seekers, Israeli choppers came down to confront the heavily armed commandos on the beach. A brief, furious firefight ensued, which left three terrorists dead and eight captured. No one else was hurt. The prisoners were taken to a secure facility and interrogation began almost immediately.

Motivations

The operation against Israel was sure to have far-reaching repercussions, both in the Middle East and beyond. The United States, for example, suspended its dialogue with the PLO and called on Yasir Arafat to apologize for the attack. The United States also demanded that Mohammed Abbas and the PLF be disciplined.

Why would the PLF undertake such a controversial and risky operation at this

time? What conclusions can be drawn regarding the various participants?

First, the PLF has a long record of conducting hare-brained terrorist operations. Most, like the *Achille Lauro* affair, have been aimed at civilians. In 1978, PLF infiltrators used a rubber dinghy to reach Israel, murdering an Israeli man, his daughter, another young girl and a policeman. In 1980, a PLF terrorist sought to penetrate Israel's well-defended border by hot air balloon. The balloon exploded shortly after takeoff, however, and no one was hurt but the terrorist, who was killed. The following year, PLF terrorists tried to use hang gliders. One hang glider crashed, and the bombs fell from the other before it reached its target, an Israeli refinery.

In light of the PLF's poor operational record, Mohammed Abbas has acquired the reputation of a Palestinian Wile E. Coyote of "Roadrunner" fame. It can be surmised that he wanted to use the speedboat attack as a way of grandstanding during the Arab summit, as well as to refurbish his battered reputation. Abbas may have overestimated the Israeli reputation for ferocity in countering border incursions. If so, he may have operated under the assumption that there would be no survivors among his men to link the operation to the PLF and its state sponsors.

Second, despite what some commentators would like us to believe, it is clear that Khadafi is still deeply committed to supporting international terrorists. In contrast to years past, however, Libyan support has become less conspicuous and more difficult to track. While Khadafi is a certifiable loony tune, he is not crazy, and certainly realized how exposed he was when no nation really came to his defense in the wake of the 1986 American bombing raid on his country.

In this latest attack, the Libyan government is guilty of having provided the PLF with training, safe haven, some arms



and equipment, speedboats, port facilities for the mother ship, and more than likely some intelligence. Iraq also shares some of the blame, since it not only permits the PLF to maintain its headquarters in Baghdad, but provides the organization with funding and other operational support. Mohammed Abbas, for example, travels on an Iraqi diplomatic passport, and other PLF operatives use standard Iraqi passports.

Third, the PLF, Abbas faction, is a member in good standing of the PLO, with Abbas sitting on the organization's 15-man executive committee. The PLF has remained loyal to Arafat since its formation in 1977, and is the principal PLO link to Iraq. Thus, it is impossible for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat to divorce himself from culpability in the PLF attack.

Arafat's suggestion that the attack on Israel took him by surprise is a bald-faced lie. It is impossible to believe that the PLO's highly disciplined and effective intelligence apparatus, which is controlled by Abu Iyad, somehow overlooked an operation that took 18 months to put together, involving the training of PLF terrorists in Libya, the purchase of six custom-made speedboats and the acquisition of the "coaster." In addition, both Libyan and Iraqi intelligence, if not the strongmen that rule the nations, surely had advance notice of the operation.

Since a successful attack against Israel was likely to jeopardize the PLO's dialogue with the United States, and possibly result in direct Israeli military retaliation against the PLF, Libya, or Iraq, the question remains: why did Arafat and the other Arab intelligence services permit the operation to go forward? Part of the answer may have to do with the fact that the PLO is divided between its "founding fathers" and younger combat commanders. Most of the senior leadership believes that the only road to realizing their dream of a Palestinian state is via political and diplomatic means. By contrast, the younger "firebrands" are

committed to violence as the only way of achieving this goal.

As the focus of the war against Israel has shifted from the PLO's headquarters in Tunis to the uprising — the *Intifada* — on the West Bank and Gaza, it may be that Arafat gave in to his trigger-happy young commanders. If he sanctioned the operation, it would be a way of demonstrating that he and the PLO are "still in charge." In addition, both factions of the PLO are deeply concerned that the *Intifada* is beginning to run out of steam. There may have been consensus that a successful military operation would serve to reenergize the uprising.

Finally, the PLF operation became a pawn in the complex struggle for leadership of the Arab world. Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo all have current as well as historical claims to leadership. Egypt was the undisputed seat of leadership until former president Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel, making that country unlikely to regain the position anytime soon. This leaves Baghdad and Damascus, which are currently engaged in a bitter contest for supremacy.

Even after its eight-year war with Iran, Iraq still boasts the largest military in the Arab world, and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein has made no secret of his ambitions — namely, Kuwait. Saddam's rival, Syrian president Hafez Assad, is equally adamant that Damascus should be the "capital" of the Arab world. Assad continues to cast a large shadow over Lebanon.

There is an old Arab saying that "the road to leadership of the Arab world runs through Palestine." In this connection, the PLF attack would have served Saddam Hussein's interest as a means of exerting Iraqi leadership on the Palestinian issue. He wants to be seen as the leading supporter of the PLO and Palestinians not only in the occupied territories, but throughout the Arab world.

The Military Perspective

Israeli military and intelligence officials were surprised at the complexity of the planned Tel Aviv attack, especially since the PLF is not widely regarded as very competent. Not only were the Israelis impressed by the operation's planning, but also by its execution. The terrorists, for example, demonstrated outstanding navigational abilities. Staying in formation, they were able to travel through almost 200 miles of open water with nothing more than a small compass and a few stars.

Also, the boats and other equipment were of excellent quality. The company that built the speedboats was Marina-Mrin, headquartered in Limasol Harbor, Cyprus. The company maintains an assembly plant in Benghazi and, ironically, also has an agent in Haifa, Israel.

The Israelis are still puzzled as to where the PLF terrorists obtained the photos of the Tel Aviv marina and promenade. Initially, they suspected that someone posing as a tourist or journalist had taken the pictures. In their investigation, however, they discovered that at least some of the photos were taken by Lebanese (Christian militia) officials who had visited Israel as guests of the Jewish state's defense establishment. How the photos fell into the hands of the terrorists remains a mystery.

The Israelis easily defeated the attempted PLF incursion, and similar attacks are unlikely to succeed in the future. The Israeli military establishment demonstrated once again its efficiency and potent punch. They only have to let their guard down once, however, for the outcome to be different. Despite its rhetoric to the contrary, the PLO remains committed to the use of violence in its war against Israel. The recent PLF operation serves as a reminder that the specter of terrorism has not disappeared, despite dramatic changes underway in the East Bloc and Soviet Union. ✕



SF WET AND WILD

Spec War Waterborne Infiltrators

Text by John Landers

Photos by D. Clark

THE coast is cold and quiet at midnight. Offshore, in a pair of blackened-out rubber boats, a dozen men wait silently in the darkness. Their leader, an Army Special Forces (SF) captain, double-checks his map and sends three scout swimmers toward the beach. The scouts must secure the designated beach landing site (BLS) before the rest of the A-detachment can come ashore. The moon, still obscured by thick clouds, casts only a faint glow on the water. Each member of the team peers intently at the coastline, watching and listening for any sign of an enemy patrol.

Finally, after swimming hundreds of meters and making a thorough reconnaissance of the BLS, the scouts flash a blue strobe to signal that the area is clear. The soldiers paddle quickly to the shore. They hit the beach, haul their craft into the tree line, and then rapidly deflate and disassemble the boats. Working with just two small shovels, the team digs a jeep-sized hole and caches the collapsed boats, along with their outboard motors, fuel bladders, navigational equipment, and paddles. The men carefully camouflage the site, shoulder their rucksacks, and vanish into the bush.

The A-detachment has completed a textbook perfect small boat infiltration of the Conch Republic, more commonly known as Camp Lejeune. This is the location for the final field training exercise (FTX) of SF's newest advanced skills course, waterborne infiltration. The techniques practiced here during the FTX will keep these soldiers alive when they have to infiltrate for real, swimming or paddling ashore to some not-so-friendly Third World beach.

The Waterborne Infiltration Course (WIC) is one of many advanced skills



Photo: S.W.C.S./U.S. Army

courses offered by the 22 Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne). Under the able command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Davis, 22 Battalion trains SF personnel in such sophisticated specialties as military freefall (MFF), special operations target interdiction and Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE).

The battalion's Waterborne Operations Company, based in Key West, Florida, is responsible for running WIC, as well as the basic combat diver, diving medical technician and combat diving supervisor courses.

The company's instructors, mostly SF and Navy SEAL personnel, are well-qualified, the majority being senior NCOs with plenty of operational experience. In addition to their schooling responsibilities, the Waterborne Ops Company serves its area as an emergency treatment center for both military and civilian diving injuries.

Waterborne Infiltration is a six-week course designed to train special ops forces in the uses of kayaks, small boats, and surface swimming in an unconventional warfare (UW) setting. The first five weeks of the program take place in Key West. The instructors and students then travel to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for the FTX and further training in surf operations.



The team's weapons point out from the F-470s in every direction as they plow through the cold water.

I caught up with the staff of the Waterborne Ops Company as they prepared for the final week-long exercise at Camp Lejeune. I was greeted by Captain Al Kendris, the SF public affairs officer, who had kindly cleared the way for me to evaluate the course for SOF. With him was Staff Sergeant Kirk Wyckoff, an Army journalist, who had recently returned from Panama. After a few preliminary introductions, we went to find Major Richard Drake, the officer in charge of the Waterborne Ops Company, who had offered to brief me on the purpose and scope of WIC.

"What you're going to see here is a brand new course, Waterborne Infiltration, which was put together in about a year's time," Maj. Drake explained. Although the company had run two pilot programs last year as a basic train-up for their instructors, this would be the first class of special operations personnel to pass through WIC. While most of the students are sent to the course from SF, the Waterborne Ops Company also trains many Rangers, Marines and Air Force Combat Control Team (CCT) members. Because of the limited number of student slots, roughly 120 a year, candidates for the course are selected carefully. "It's not like an Outward Bound experience," Capt. Kendris emphasized. "The unit has to have a need for it." Those that come to WIC are, for the most part, fairly senior NCOs and company-grade officers, Maj. Drake noted, although the students' previous experience with maritime ops runs "from the basic level of entry into SF all the way up to guys who are already combat diver-qualified."

The course itself is designed to greatly increase special ops forces' infil/exfil ser-



natives. Because so much of our planet is covered with water, it's obvious that most units involved in UW would benefit by having waterborne, as well as airborne, infiltration capabilities. This is certainly not news to the SEALs, nor to any part of the special warfare community. The purpose of WIC, then, is to provide the appropriate maritime training for traditionally land-based special operations soldiers. The types of waterborne skills taught at the course, Maj. Drake believes, can be passed on to a greater variety of men, and often in less time, than the scuba-intensive infiltration techniques that are part of the combat divers course. Because of this, and because of the limitations of sub-surface ops, the emphasis of SF waterborne infiltration training is shifting to the methods taught at WIC.

In Key West students are taught how to plan and conduct a wide range of over-the-horizon waterborne ops. While this generally refers to infiltrating low over the curvature of the earth to avoid detection by coastal radar, over-the-horizon distance

really depends on a combination of factors. "If the threat is a boy and his dog on the beach and you're surface swimming in, over-the-horizon would be 2 miles," observed Maj. Drake, "but if they have radar capability, and their radar's on top of, let's say, the cliffs of Dover, and you're flying in on a C-130, your over-the-horizon distance could be 60 or 70 miles." Instructors, therefore, emphasize early on the importance of correctly assessing the threat of detection and planning missions accordingly.

"The first part of the course," he continued, "is basically planning and navigational procedures. It's roughly 10 days of classroom training." During this period WIC students learn electronic navigation, nautical chart reading, sailing, dead reckoning procedures, and how tides, currents, weather conditions, and hazardous marine life can affect a mission. Outside the classroom, they begin a series of long-distance open water swims. Each day, students swim thousands of meters, wearing fins and dry suits over their BDUs, towing combat gear, rucksacks, weapons, and any other mission-essential equipment. This surface swimming training continues throughout the course.

Small boat familiarization is the next step for WIC students. After being introduced to the inflatable Zodiac F-470, which can carry over 1,300 pounds of men and equipment, they're taught to maintain and operate the craft. The students learn how to coordinate small boat ops with a variety of intermediate delivery systems, such as C-130s, C-141s, helicopters, and surface and sub-surface naval vessels. This means learning to rig the F-470 for an airdrop (a "rubber duck op"), helocast, or at-sea launching, depending upon the mission.

Students also begin practicing BLS selection and security procedures. The in-



As FTX begins, every troop on Onslow Beach is busy inflating or waterproofing something for the mission.

structors believe that coming ashore to the BLS is the most dangerous part of any waterborne infiltration. The chance of an accident or enemy contact is greatest at this moment, so students are taught to make the transition from water to land rapidly and safely. BLS sterilization and proper equipment caching techniques for the F-470 are also covered during this stage. Caching these rather large boats can be difficult, since an enormous hole is required to bury the deflated craft, outboard motors and fuel. The rigid floorboards, made of either plywood or aluminum, are usually placed over the rest of the gear, and then everything is covered with at least 18 inches of dirt. If done correctly the boats can be successfully recovered, even from a long-term cache, and then used for exfiltration.

As WIC reaches the halfway point, the students move on to kayak training. The SF kayaks are unique, collapsible two-man craft made by Klepper (Dept. SOF, 35 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003). These kayaks are versatile boats, useful in deep or shallow water, and able to carry a crew of two and 500 pounds of equipment. "What we like about them," Maj. Drake told me, "is that you can field-repair them easily." Most broken parts can be mended with a few strips of 100-mph tape. In addition, once fitted with sails, the kayaks can maintain speeds of up to eight knots for as long as the wind blows. Because of this, they can be used to transport teams and supplies surprisingly long distances. The WIC instructors also believe that the kayaks, with competent

crews, can be used in higher surf conditions than the F-470s. Each kayak and paddles can be broken down and packed into three separate bags. Although not exactly tidy packages, the three sacks have a combined weight of only about 75 pounds.

During their training, students learn kayak maintenance, repair, and different BLS and caching techniques. As part of an on-going best-team competition, they take part in the "bag and dash" event in which each pair of students must carry a bagged kayak a quarter of a mile and assemble it in total darkness. Then they paddle 2,000 meters and portage the kayak back to the starting point. Since the kayaks can be rigged for sailing, long-distance movement and off-set navigation are practiced, too. Training also includes launch and recovering from other craft, as well as at-sea rendezvous procedures.

Students continue to improve their swimming skills during the small boat and kayak stages. Major Drake told me, "The course is built around the surface swimmer. Sooner or later the guy's going to have to get in the water." As part of their training for combat swimming, students learn to use small net veils for camouflage while on the surface at night. This simple technique allows them to approach much closer to occupied areas for reconnaissance missions. Students also practice launch and recovery from different delivery systems and team swimming techniques.

The Key West portion of WIC training culminates with a set of practical exercises and a comprehensive exam. By this time, students have mastered combined small boat, kayak, and surface swimming ops, as well as the complicated mission planning and briefing procedures that precede every

exercise. Immediately after the exam, students and instructors fly to Camp Lejeune for the FTX.

Mission prep for the first exercise starts as soon as the students hit the ground. A complex scenario, involving the mythical Conch Republic and its indigenous insurgents, the Florida Freedom Fighters, is given to the students. Working in teams of 12, they must develop detailed plans to infiltrate the republic and link up with the rebel group.

At this point, I sat in on a team brief-back as the students presented their mission plans to the WIC instructors. Surrounded by maps, time tables, and equipment lists, the team leaders explained each aspect of the exercise: location and disposition of hostile forces, method of insertion, main and alternate routes of infiltration, danger areas, and contingency procedures.

The team's mission was to begin at 1745, just after sunset, with a helocast 6 kilometers off the North Carolina coast into the Atlantic. The men would board their F-470s, make a quick head count, and motor away. Once they were about a mile from the debarkation point, both boats would stop for a complete equipment check. The team would then begin their infiltration of Camp Lejeune, heading northwest into the mouth of the New River, navigate through the convoluted inlet to Ferry Point, then to Weil Point, and finally come ashore in the French's Creek area. They planned to cache their two boats at the BLS and then link up with the "freedom fighters" at a prearranged rendezvous point further inland. The team was expected to reach its goal undetected by the Conch Republic's Marine patrols.

Weather conditions expected for the evening's mission were far from ideal. A large storm front was predicted to move in from South Carolina, and there was the possibility of severe thunderstorms. Offshore, the waves were already reaching 7-12 feet, and the winds were blowing at 20 to 30 knots. While this would make it difficult for the men to get into their boats after the helo-cast, the team was hoping that the rough seas and heavy winds would keep the local civilian boaters from venturing out during the exercise. Fortunately for the students, February was unusually mild in Camp Lejeune this year, and the temperature wasn't expected to fall below the mid-40s. Another positive factor was a high tide, due at 2019, which would make it possible for the heavily laden boats to get into the shallow waters around French's Creek.

Once they had reviewed their plans for the exercise, the team leaders fielded questions from the instructors regarding navigation procedures, alternate landing sites, and several other topics. When everyone was satisfied with the planning for the exercise, the students went off to find a hot meal and make final inspections of their personal gear.

After lunch, it was time to head down to



Students disassemble both F-470s and prepare them for caching.

In "bag and dash" event each pair of students carries a bagged kayak a quarter of a mile, assembles it in total darkness, paddles 2,000 meters and portages kayak back to the starting point.

the Onslow Beach assembly area, where the students were preparing their F-470s for the mission. Every man was busy inflating or waterproofing something when I arrived. The scene appeared to be total chaos, but within the hour all six Zodiacs were completely rigged and ready for launch.

The weather, meanwhile, had become a problem. A tornado watch was now in effect for Camp Lejeune, and a Coast Guard cutter offshore was reporting dangerously high seas. The WIC instructors considered the situation and decided, wisely, that the helocast portion of the exercise would have to be canceled. Though experience in the rough surf would have been valuable for the students, the conditions were far too extreme for a training exercise.

The three teams, instead, would begin their missions by portaging their boats over the intracoastal waterway, and proceed from there to the New River inlet. This change in plans forced each team to consult their navigational charts again, plot the new navigational routes, and revise their time tables accordingly. They hastily adjusted to the new scenario and were ready to go on schedule. It was an impressive organizational feat.

The teams, now wearing their dry suits, carried the F-470s across a field and down into the canal. Three other Zodiacs, manned by Marines from the 2nd Force

Reconnaissance Company, were already waiting at the launch site. These were the exercise safety boats, each of which was assigned to follow a two-boat team during the infiltration. A WIC instructor would also be onboard to closely observe and evaluate team performance.

A light rain was falling as the students finalized their new schedules and attached the boats' outboard motors. I watched Team One slip into their F-470s and speed away, followed by the first safety boat, and then spent some time sharing candy bars and small talk with the three Marines from safety boat two. After securing my gear onboard, we were soon joined by one of the senior WIC instructors as the second team came down and got into their boats. We took our places and shoved off as the team started down the waterway. The coxswain cranked up the outboard and away we went. The sun was setting, the rain let up, and, except for the overcast sky, it looked like a good night to be on the water.

We followed about 50 meters behind the two team boats as they made their way to the New River inlet. The students were crouched low, paying no attention to the cold water that splashed up at them as the boats plowed through the waves. The teams' weapons pointed out from the F-470s in every direction. It was clear that they knew what they were doing and took the training seriously. We passed several

navigational markers and at 1840 we entered the inlet.

The sky was completely dark by the time we arrived at the mouth of the New River. The Marines watched the water carefully to avoid running over commercial fishing nets or any other floating objects. The team passed another succession of navigational markers and then, suddenly, the lead boat ran aground. We followed the second Zodiac as it immediately veered off toward deeper water. The coxswain put the engine in Russian neutral and we drifted, listening to the students quietly work the first boat free. The instructor, sitting across from me, explained that the team had entered the inlet much earlier than anticipated because of the change of plans. The high tide hadn't come in yet, and this channel was still too shallow for the F-470s to pass through.

Once the lead boat was into deeper water, the team started back on course. A few minutes later, however, all three boats ran aground, so we got out and slowly walked them through the knee- to ankle-deep water. A brief and hushed discussion, something about steering to the right of the red markers, could be heard from the direction of the team. One of the Marines mentioned that if the team had been in kayaks, which have a much shallower draft than the F-470s, they could've easily paddled through this stretch. We eventually made our way into a deeper channel, and the three Zodiacs motored away again.

The team boats navigated from marker to marker for another hour and then cut their engines as they approached a bridge. This was one of the main danger areas of the exercise, so the team conducted a long security halt, listening and looking for any unfriendly activity. Finally, the first boat slowly paddled through and then stopped some distance ahead. The second boat cautiously followed, bounding through quietly, and we proceeded further up the New River.

An hour later we drifted to a stop at the mouth of French's Creek and the team conducted another lengthy security halt. A large campfire was burning at the edge of the far shore, but nothing could be seen or heard. Three scout swimmers slipped si-



Moving quietly through the trees, the team conducts frequent security halts.

lently into the water and went to make a reconnaissance of the landing site. Ten minutes went by, and then 20. Something wasn't right. One of the swimmers signaled the team: proceed to the alternate BLS. The first area, I learned later, had turned out to be too marshy for a proper cache. The scouts quickly secured the new site and the rest of the team paddled ashore, followed by the safety boat. By the time the instructor and I had gathered up our gear and waded in, the team had carried both boats deep inside the tree line, peeled off their dry suits and set out a security force.

Within half an hour, the students had disassembled both F-470s and prepared them for caching. A few men were sent out to locate suitable landmarks while others wrapped up the outboard motors to protect them from dirt. A cache site was selected, and, after considerable digging, the team buried their fuel, motors, paddles, and deflated boats. They then recorded the location of the site — nearby landmarks, grid coordinates, the contents of the cache and other information so that the equipment could be recovered later. The students realized, however, that they had created an enormous mound of excess dirt over the cache. After discarding the possibility of attempting to make it look like an old campfire (there were, after all, no burned logs to be found), the team scattered most of the dirt away from the area. Having made a mole hill out of their mountain, the students camouflaged the site with mulch and fallen leaves. It wasn't quite perfect, but they had picked the spot well; the cache was so far from any likely avenue of approach that it probably could've gone undetected for years. What's more, the entire caching procedure had been completed with an absolute minimum of light

and noise. The infiltration was going well so far.

The team grabbed their gear, put on their rucksacks, and headed toward the link-up. Time was running out. The students, weighted down with their equipment, did their best to hurry through the dark forest. The night was surprisingly cold and damp, but they didn't seem to notice. The procession weaved along, moving quietly between the trees. There was no way to predict where the Conch Republic's forces might be, so the team conducted frequent security halts. We reached the rendezvous site a couple hours before dawn, and the team, having accomplished their mission, went to be debriefed.

Later that morning, I met again with Maj. Drake and Capt. Kendris. All three teams, they told me, had successfully completed their infiltrations and reached the link-up sites on schedule. "Given the conditions last night, the way the wind was blowing," Maj. Drake explained, "if someone wasn't within a quarter mile and specifically listening for something like that, they probably would've gone undetected." Other than a few navigational difficulties, he felt that the greatest challenge for the students had been finding a way to effectively camouflage their caches in the dark. "The team I was with," he said, "took all the leaves from where they were going to dig, and put them in plastic bags, and set them aside. They scraped the topsoil, put it on their ponchos, and set that aside. They then scraped some more dirt, put that on ponchos, and set that aside."

Later, when the students completed their cache, they simply spread the layers over it in the reverse order. This technique proved to be most effective; the team's site earned high marks during the daylight inspection.



Within one hour of beginning of FTX all six Zodiac F-470s are completely rigged and ready for launch.

The next exercise for the WIC students would be a kayak exfiltration. After their brief-backs, each team would ride down to Onslow Beach and pack up their disassembled kayaks. Then, at one-hour intervals, the teams would be taken by helicopter to LZ Owl. "In their mission statement," Maj. Drake said, "we gave them a primary of LZ Jaybird, up near French's Creek, and an alternate, LZ Owl. We're going to execute their alternate and see how well they planned that." They would proceed from there to a small creek that leads to the New River inlet and re-assemble their kayaks. The students would then paddle down the creek, through the inlet, and out into the ocean. Five kilometers offshore, they would link-up with a Coast Guard cutter, which would take them back near Onslow Beach. The teams would finally debark and paddle ashore through the surf.

At 1620, I found myself riding toward LZ Owl in a van with Maj. Drake and Lt. Col. Davis, who had come from Ft. Bragg to observe WIC. What appeared to be the main road out to the LZ had been washed out, so it took a bit of determination and innovative driving on Maj. Drake's part to get us there before the first team was due in. The instructors quickly staked out a panel marker and some chem lights in the center of the LZ. Moments later, a CH-47 roared in, pulled pitch, and gently touched down. Team One, carrying their weapons, web gear, rucksacks, and kayak bags, scrambled out as the rear door lowered. The students raced into the tree line and hit the ground as the Chinook screamed away into the darkening sky.

After a short security halt, the team quickly moved out toward the creek assembly area. The kayaks, which were broken down into their bulky bags, had been divided between each pair of students. While there seemed to be no best method for transporting the sacks, the relatively light weight of the kayaks allowed each team member to maneuver through the woods with surprising ease.

Continued on page 94

WHAT HAPPENED TO SEAN FLYNN?

SOF Solves 21-Year-Old POW Mystery

by Chris Doyle

Photos Courtesy Author



Sean Leslie Flynn, son of swashbuckling actor Errol Flynn, carved out a name for himself as a news photographer in Vietnam. Known for his willingness to take risks, the 28-year-old journalist was freelancing for *Time Magazine* when captured in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia, on 6 April 1970.

ONE of the enduring mysteries of the Vietnam War is the disappearance of news photographers Sean Flynn and Dana Stone in April 1970. Eager to cover the Cambodian Incursion, the flamboyant lensmen rode their rented Honda motorcycles from Phnom Penh southeast into Svay Rieng Province ... and vanished as completely as if they had ridden off the edge of the earth.

Over the years various theories have been advanced as to their ultimate fate, and some in the MIA activist community maintain they may still be alive and in

Cambodia. Immediately after capture the two men were led away and moved out of the area to prevent their rescue by American and ARVN troops then in the immediate vicinity.

Various sources, including intercepted radio messages from COSVN (Central Offices for South Vietnam), the Viet Cong high command, confirmed that both men survived their initial capture, although Stone may have been wounded. The two were sighted a number of times as they were moved from temporary camp to temporary camp, and some of the sightings

were authenticated by American intelligence officers. Declassified documents from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), however, tell a different tale. They point strongly toward the case that, while both men survived their initial captivity, they were executed in 1971 by a drunken Khmer Rouge district commander.

Flynn was freelancing for *Time Magazine* and Stone was on assignment for CBS at the time of their capture. While there are several versions of what actually transpired, analysts believe the two were traveling along Route 1 near a eucalyptus plantation when captured by elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division, then fighting in eastern

were authenticated by American intelligence officers.

CBS and *Time Magazine* launched extensive efforts to find the missing men, and Stone's wife, Louise, took up residence in Phnom Penh to coordinate the search. Some time after their disappearance, she was contacted by a Dutch journalist, Johannes C.G. Duynesveld, who had earlier been captured by the VC and then released. He claimed to have information about Western journalists, including Dana Stone, but refused to talk with fellow reporters. When he finally met with Louise, he told her, "Your husband is alive."

Duynesveld claimed to have been held in a communist field hospital for three weeks with Stone, whom he described as wounded and being carried in a litter. He said the unit moved every few days to avoid contact with American and ARVN troops. Duynesveld gave Louise enough details about her husband to convince her he was telling the truth. He claimed he could go back across the lines, find Stone and bring him out. Louise took him up on his offer, gave him a large stock of medical supplies to give to the guerrilla medics and \$20.00 in French francs (all he asked for).

In September 1970 Duynesveld departed Phnom Penh by bicycle, and promptly dropped from sight. Nothing more was heard of him until the following December, when the communist unit he was accompanying stumbled into an ARVN ambush near the border and he was killed. Duynesveld's diary was recovered and turned over to U.S. intelligence. Among the entries was a somewhat cryptic notation that the town where he was supposed to meet with the journalists was destroyed by U.S. bombing.

Almost immediately after Flynn and Stone disappeared, there were also rumors making the rounds that they had been executed. There were several versions of this story, with the purported executioners variously described as VC, NVA, or Khmer Rouge. It is known that at some point the Vietnamese turned Flynn and Stone over to the Khmer Rouge, but U.S. intelligence was severely handicapped in that it possessed no specialists on the

fledgling Cambodian communist movement, nor any captured documents that addressed Khmer Rouge policy toward foreign (Western) prisoners.

Meanwhile, efforts to gather information on the two men, and eventually win their release, continued to move forward. The American Committee to Free Journalists Held in Southeast Asia, chaired by CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite, announced at one point that the missing men were held by the Khmer Rouge, whom he described as "the major insurgent group in Cambodia." He said the men were kept on the move, although the exact state of their health could not be determined. The committee's information corroborated previous intelligence reports that peasants had seen bearded, long-haired Caucasians in Khmer Rouge captivity. Many of these sightings, however, were deep in Khmer Rouge-controlled territory, and the fact that the prisoners were constantly moved around placed severe limitations on rescue attempts.

In March 1974 a Khmer Rouge defector provided the first substantive information on Western prisoners held by the Khmer Rouge. According to the defector, prior to mid-1971 the Khmer Rouge routinely executed prisoners, foreign as well as indigenous, in order to convince the peasants under their control not to work with or assist Cambodian government forces. This policy changed in the latter half of 1971, the defector reported, when indigenous POWs were given intensive political indoctrination in an effort to win them over to the Khmer Rouge side. However, this policy shift did not apply to Westerners, including journalists, the defector noted, since they were considered to be unresponsive to Khmer Rouge ideology and unsympathetic to their cause. Westerners, the defector noted, continued to be executed.

Additional information provided by enemy ralliers, as well as controlled penetration agents working in Khmer Rouge territory, provided further confirmation. Welles Hagen, a reporter for NBC, was captured along with several other journalists during an ambush in Kampot Province in May 1970. All were shot to death immediately after capture. In another incident, Japanese journalist Taizo Ichinose was captured by the Khmer Rouge near Angkor Wat in November 1973. A DIA report from that period notes: "A reliable source indicates that orders for his execution were given.... Although there was never any confirmation that the execution

actually took place, no sighting reports on an alive POW that might have equated to Ichinose were received."

The first hard information relating to Flynn and Stone was also received during this period, provided by sources DIA termed "reliable." All pointed toward the conclusion that the two missing men were almost certainly executed by the Khmer Rouge in Kampong Cham Province in 1971.

The first information on the probable execution of Flynn and Stone was provided by two Vietnamese ralliers in Saigon. Both ralliers were debriefed separately on several occasions, and it was subsequently determined by analysts that the ralliers were



Thirty-year-old Dana Stone was a Navy veteran on contract for CBS News when he disappeared with Sean Flynn while covering the Cambodian incursion along Route 1 in Svay Rieng Province. Short of stature but big on guts, Stone was at home while covering the infantry, and won the name "Mini-Grunt" from Marines he photographed in the field. It is believed he may have been wounded when captured on 6 April 1970.

reporting what they apparently knew of the same incident. According to their accounts, both Flynn and Stone were being held in a hut in Kroch Chhmar District, Kampong Cham Province, located about 60 miles southwest of Kratie City. They had been brought to this area in February 1971 by the Khmer Rouge, and were closely guarded. One of the ralliers had left the area shortly afterward, and had only hearsay knowledge that Flynn and Stone had been executed. The second rallier stated that one day in May 1971 he heard gunshots from the area of the prisoners hut. Later that same day he was told by villagers the journalists had been executed because "they were uncooperative." The Khmer Rouge district commander, said to have ordered and then personally carried out the executions, was described by both ralliers as hot-tempered, and was known to have previously killed an NVA soldier simply because he wanted his weapons. The second rallier also selected photographs of Flynn and Stone as resembling the prisoners he saw.

An additional report received in October 1974 provided new insight on the Flynn/Stone killings. The

source of the information was a Khmer Rouge defector who surrendered to Cambodian government forces earlier that year. According to the source, while he was undergoing a training course in 1973, one of the Khmer Rouge instructors cautioned the students that any prisoners taken should be evacuated to higher echelons for eventual use in POW exchanges. While on the subject, the instructor told of the "execution-by-shooting of two U.S. newsmen" in Kroch Chhmar District in Kampong Cham Province. The execution, according to the instructor, was ordered by the Khmer Rouge district chief while drunk, and he went on to cite this as an example of the improper way to do things.

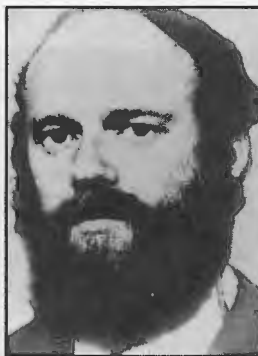
U.S. analysts believed this latter report tended to confirm the execution of Flynn and Stone, in that the rallier was able to provide the location of the execution, the manner in which it was performed, and the individual who ordered it. Additionally, the information corroborated that previously given by the two other ralliers.

A DAO Saigon report, dated 31 May 1974 and entitled "U.S. POWs and Grave Sites," gave additional information on Flynn and Stone following their capture, and corroborated details previously given by Vietnamese and Cambodian communist defectors.

A final report was received shortly before the fall of the Lon Nol government in April 1975, which dealt with the execution of two American journalists in Kampong Cham in 1971. This report also indicated that the journalists had been captured in Svay Rieng in 1970, thus making it highly suggestive of Flynn and Stone. However, the reporting unit was unable to recontact the source of the report prior to the fall of Phnom Penh, and the information could not be positively resolved. Nevertheless, it points strongly to Flynn and Stone.

There the trail ends. Government officials, as well as civilian investigators who have studied the case in excruciating detail, concur that both Sean Flynn and Dana Stone are dead, murdered execution-style by their brutal Khmer Rouge captors. They believe any chance of recovering their remains to be extremely remote, if not impossible.

Chris Doyle is a frequent contributor to SOF.

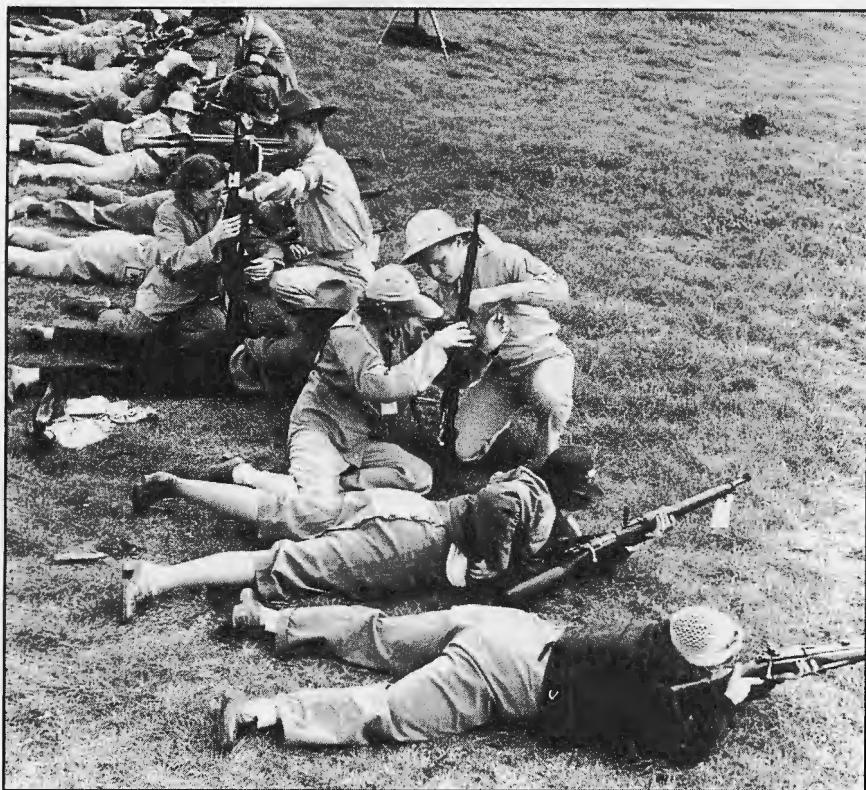


Johannes C.G. Duynesveld, of Voorschoten, Holland, was one of the stranger characters to come out of the Vietnam War. A self-styled "journalist" who claimed to have traveled with Regis Debray in Bolivia, he spent nine weeks in Viet Cong captivity in Cambodia before being released in August 1970. He pedaled out of Phnom Penh on 15 September 1970 while on a mission to locate missing Western journalists including Sean Flynn and Dana Stone, and promptly dropped from sight. Three months later, on 18 December, he was killed when the Viet Cong unit he was traveling with was ambushed by ARVN troops in Svay Rieng, the same province where Flynn and Stone had vanished some eight months previously. Duynesveld's diary chronicled his role as a "guerrilla fighter" and also hinted at his "secret mission" to find missing Western journalists. One notation told of his finding the town where he was supposed to meet them as being destroyed by American bombs.

AMERICAN MILITIA UNDER FIRE

Congress Guts Civilian Marksmanship Program

by George Nyfeler



Civilians receive firearms training at a school conducted by the DCM at Camp Perry, Ohio, circa 1940. Photo: courtesy NRA

IT has been said that the last successful program run by the Federal Government was World War II. There may be a lot of truth in that statement.

There is, however, and has been since 1903, a quietly run program that has paid tremendous dividends for our nation, our ground combat forces (Army Infantry and Marine Corps), and our overall military preparedness. This is the Civilian Marksmanship Program. And now there is a concerted effort afoot in Congress to terminate this program.

Established under provisions of the Civilian Marksmanship Act of 1903, due to the efforts of Teddy Roosevelt of San Juan

Hill fame, it came as the direct result of the military's experience with the generally poor level of marksmanship of the American recruit observed during mobilization for the Spanish-American War. The Army found that American men could not shoot! This same impetus, by the way, helped found the National Rifle Association in 1871 after a similar experience with mobilization for the Civil War.

The mission of the Civilian Marksmanship Program, under the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, is to train Americans, who are or will be subject to military service, in the use of rifled arms.

To do this the DCM is tasked, by law, to annually conduct national matches, — competitive shooting with the service pistol (they still use the .45) and the service rifles (the M1, M14, M16, or commercial civil-

ian equivalents) between teams from the regular services, the Reserves, the National Guard, and civilian teams from several states.

It also affiliates civilian rifle clubs (which have a junior training program) and issues .22 caliber rifles to such clubs (after the club officers are fingerprinted and run through an FBI background check — the Army wants to know where their rifles are and who has them). It issues .22 Long Rifle ammo to the clubs based on their prior year's qualification shooting by juniors. These clubs can be independent — some are sponsored by 4-H clubs, some by NRA rifle clubs, some by Boy Scout troops or councils. Others are sponsored by VFW or American Legion Posts. There are currently about 2,000 of these clubs across the United States, with a junior membership of about 350,000.

Selected clubs that have a suitable range facility, and a junior high-power rifle training program, are issued M1 rifles and ammunition, as well. Range facilities, adult leadership and qualified rifle instructors are all furnished by volunteers, at no cost to the government. The clubs are required to furnish a bond to the government to protect the government from financial loss if the rifles are lost.

The DCM furnishes, free, thousands of rounds annually to Boy Scout and 4-H camps for their summer rifle programs.

The DCM administers the Distinguished Rifleman and Distinguished Pistol Shooter badge program for the services, as well as a similar one for civilians (these programs require the use of the service pistol and the service rifle). There is a similar program for Distinguished International Shooters for those Americans who win medals in the Olympics and a few other similar international competitions.

The DCM also sells, at "cost," surplus M1 rifles to active high power rifle competitors — the cost is currently \$168.00, a whole bunch more than the Government paid for the M1 back during World War II. This program has, over the years, returned

over \$30 million to the United States treasury. Before the Gun Control Act of 1968, the DCM sold M1 carbines, .45 pistols, and M1903 series rifles as well. They stopped in 1968, and before the NRA and the American public forced them to resume during the late 1970s, the government was *spending* over \$5 million per year to *destroy* these M1 Garands.

The entire DCM program costs the taxpayers roughly \$5 million per year — the 1991 budget request is \$5.6 million; the 1992 request is something less than \$5 million.

The DCM also is tasked by law to conduct a “small arms firing school,” for civilians of all ages, at the national matches every year, using the current service rifle, the M16. The minimum age for this school is 12, and approximately 1,200 people go through it annually. Instruction is provided by the Army Marksmanship Unit from Ft. Benning, and all military shooters are pressed into duty as coaches during the firing phase, as are experienced civilian shooters. This school and the national matches are conducted at the Camp Perry, Ohio, National Guard Training facility during the NRA’s national rifle and pistol championships. While the facility is somewhat better than it was in the 1930s when people lived in tents, most current quarters are the remains of a World War II POW camp.

These programs, in effect since 1903, have yet to produce a single firearms fatality or serious firearms injury.

Who could be behind an attack on such a cost-effective and valuable program as this? How good is this program for the American people and the national defense effort? What is being said by whom and what is the ultimate goal of these attackers?

The prime antagonist is Congressman Fortney “Pete” Stark (D-CA), and a review of his assertions and the contradicting facts is in order.

Stark says: The DCM’s mission is to bring skilled marksmen into the military services.

Fact: The DCM’s mission is to train Americans subject to military service in the use of rifled arms.

Stark says: Only 200 marksmen were recruited in 1989, at a cost of \$23,000 per recruit.

Fact: Stark’s “200” refers to February 1989 alone. The true figure for the year was almost 3,000 — at a total cost of less than \$1,500 per recruit — and recruiting is *not* the DCM’s primary mission. (The United States military spends from \$8,000 to \$10,000 to recruit one man, which makes the DCM look pretty cost effective.)

Stark says: By “coincidence” each DCM club is also an NRA affiliated club.

Fact: Wrong again. For openers, the DCM has 2,000 clubs, the NRA has over 13,000. How many are not NRA clubs, we and Stark will never know, because while a member of Congress could doubtless secure the DCM club list, the list of NRA

clubs is not available, to anyone.

Stark says: Join the NRA and get your free 7.62mm surplus ammo and free access to military ranges.

Fact: This assertion is hogwash. Whatever ties there may have been at one time between the NRA and the DCM were severed many years ago by another dedicated anti-gunner, Teddy Kennedy. As to free access to military ranges, these ranges are, under DoD directive, available to civilian rifle clubs and police departments, when not needed by the military. Do you want to keep the cops off the range also, Mr. Stark?

Stark says: Every summer, the Army turns over a base (Camp Perry) in Northern Ohio to the NRA for about 2,500 NRA members.

Fact: The base is owned by the state of Ohio, not the Army, and funds paid by the NRA competitors and the value of services by NRA volunteers is far in excess of the support to the national matches provided by the DCM.

Stark says: Finally [he wrote this on 7 March 1990], when peace is breaking out all over the world, is this function justified?

Fact: At this writing, the 4th Marines, the 82nd Airborne, the 101st Airborne, the 24th Mech Division, and elements of the 1st Cav Division are eating MREs in the Saudi Arabian sand. Carrier attack groups, F-15s and Stinger missiles have their place, but unless Chamberlain was right at Munich, the Infantryman or Marine on the ground with his rifle is the foundation of all military might and combat power. And, as Pericles so aptly warned us thousands of years ago, only the dead have seen the end of war.

Currently, Stark is hanging his hat on a General Accounting Office (GAO) report that says the DCM program is not effective for the following reasons: the Army has no specific lists of DCM-trained people to call up in case of mobilization, and besides, the Army would rely on the Reserves and the National Guard.

Fact: Of course not. The American people would not stand for a government that maintains lists of civilians who have received marksmanship training. And the Army has never been in the practice of going beyond the Reserves and National Guard for mobilization units. Getting men during a time of national mobilization is the business of the Selective Service, not the Army.

The GAO says the Army has declined to fund the DCM if the Congress does not budget the \$5.6 million this year.

Fact: Of course not, for several reasons unrelated to the value of the DCM program. Army Chief of Staff General Carl Vuono had pared the Army budget to the bone already — never mind the hit that it took from DoD before it went to the Congress. He even canned the V-22 Osprey vertical lift aircraft because of budget cuts. If General Vuono were to offer a \$5.6 million transfer now, the vultures in Congress

looking for the ethereal “peace dividend” would spend the next year trying to find just how many \$5.6 million transfers they could find, and transfer that money out of the Army’s budget into some non-military activity. Secondly, even if General Vuono could and would be willing to fund the DCM program, it is patently illegal for him to do so. The pork barrel artists on Capital Hill dictate to the executive branch exactly how money is to be spent and in whose congressional district it will be spent.

The GAO is noting that the DCM is not fighting hard for this budget. Of course not.



The national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. Shown is the U.S. Army team, winner of the National Infantry Team Trophy, 1988. Photo: courtesy NRA

The Director of Civilian Marksmanship is an Army colonel. Army colonels do not get into public fights with the congress, unless they want their next assignment to be as library officer at a remote DEW line radar station.

It is interesting that the GAO has been given so much influence in this matter. I know that if I had to go back to war, I would want the riflemen with me to have been put through basic training or boot camp by a man with a Combat Infantryman’s Badge on his chest (or the Marine equivalent), and not by some bean counter whose only skill is in accounting.

The most telling hard evidence, even more telling than my own experiences as a commander of two infantry units (Special Forces A-Teams) in Vietnam — where troops who had participated in DCM programs proved to be outstanding soldiers, marksmen, and non-commissioned officers — is contained in the book *The Citizen Soldier and United States Military Policy*, by James B. Whisker (North River Press, 1979).

This book is an examination of a study made by the Arthur D. Little Company, at the request of the Army in 1965. Their findings regarding the value and effectiveness of the DCM program were summarized as follows:

“The [Arthur D. Little] study concluded that a soldier with previous firearms experience:

1. Was more likely to use his weapon in combat.

Continued on page 84

HIT SQUAD HANDGUN

Small and Silent Killer Deals Death in South Africa

Text & Photos by Graham Ambler

FASCINATING special-purpose weapons of uncertain ancestry can surface in unexpected circumstances. A colleague of mine recently came upon the weapon illustrated here. Its former custodian was an officer in the South African Police who subsequently left the force, and the country. He is currently wanted in South Africa.

This particular specimen and its lineage is even more interesting in light of recent allegations that there was an officially sanctioned hit squad within the South African Police Force. As a result of current investigations, several former policemen have been detained. This sterile weapon was supposedly built in RSA, and obviously purpose-built for less than sporting purposes.

This single-shot, .22 LR weapon has hints of design influence from the "pen gun" design used since the 1930s and now common to small-caliber flare/tear-gas guns, and the British "Welrod" silenced pistol issued by the SO, E during World War II. It is professionally but simply made with only three main components: the firing mechanism, the barrel and a silencer.

The firing mechanism is very similar to that seen on a simple pencil flare. It is about 2 inches long and contains a striker-type firing pin and spring. A slot, in the shape of a reversed "J," is cut into the body. A knurled knob protrudes from the slot, resting at the apex of the J. To cock the weapon, the knob is pulled backwards and retained in the bottom part of the J, keeping the spring under tension. The rear of the striker protrudes almost an inch from the rear of the body when the weapon is cocked. To fire the weapon, the knob is moved to the rear slightly and flicked sideways to disengage from the bottom of the J and released, allowing the striker assembly to spring forward and strike the base of the cartridge.

The second part of this weapon is the



The three components of the suppressed South African pen gun.



With a round in the chamber, the firing mechanism is screwed on.



The silencer body is screwed onto the end of the barrel.

barrel. It is just short of 4 inches long, rifled, chambered at the rear for .22 LR, and has different male threads at each end.

The silencer, the largest part of the weapon, is about 5 inches long. A silver-colored adapter at the rear has a female thread to accept the front of the barrel. This adapter can be removed from the silencer body for access to the wipes, baffles or other components that may comprise the internal assembly, which were unfortunately missing from the example that I examined.

Disassembled, the weapon is easily concealable, and can be ferreted away almost anywhere. To assemble the weapon for use, the silencer is first screwed to the end of the barrel. One .22 round is then dropped into the chamber and the firing mechanism screwed to the rear of the barrel. As the threads are of different sizes, even an IRA member could assemble it without difficulty.

With the striker in the forward position, the weapon is reasonably safe for any but the incredibly inept. Firing the weapon accurately is tricky. It is devoid of sights and the "trigger" action is anything but crisp. But this was obviously not designed with target work in mind. It was designed to have its business end shoved into some unfortunate's ear and let rip.

As mentioned, the silencer assembly was not complete. Although the large expansion chamber provided at the muzzle by the empty silencer body did quiet things considerably, it was still far too noisy to use in the average confessional without disturbing the pastor.

When firing the weapon without the silencer, "very noisy" is the description that comes to mind. Concealability is considerably enhanced, and in certain noisy environments the report might not be noticed.

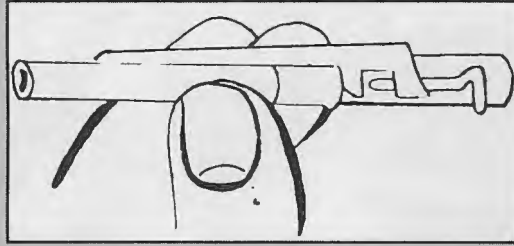
Concealment of the weapon with the silencer attached is not difficult due to its relatively clean cylindrical shape, but firing the concealed device is not without its own

A PEN THAT IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

"Pen guns" — diminutive guns the size of a pen or smaller, or guns actually disguised as a pen — have been around almost as long as the percussion cap. Probably the widest issued ever was the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) single-shot "Bushmaster," of which some 20,000 were produced on behalf of the OSS and ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence) during World War II. This was a simple device made from 3/8-inch gas pipe reamed to chamber a .45 ACP round, and designed to clip on a tree branch. Fired by a time pencil, it was intended to be a delaying device left behind by retreating agents. Odds were against hitting an enemy soldier, but its heavy caliber and light weight would shake the branch and hopefully draw attention and sniper fire while the intrepid agent kept on exfiltrating.

The second-most common pen gun would probably be the "Stinger" .22 developed by Army Ordnance and procured in considerable numbers by the OSS for issue through their Special Weapons Catalog. It was one of the smallest such items ever made, specifically designed to fit in the watch pocket of an American uniform. Because German and Japanese uniforms did not have watch pockets, Axis soldiers would theoretically not know to look there for a weapon. Its effective range was a few feet.

And the old idea of a pen gun has never died. The Viet Cong issued an archetypical "assassin's pen" in .22 LR for use within the confines of intimate relation-

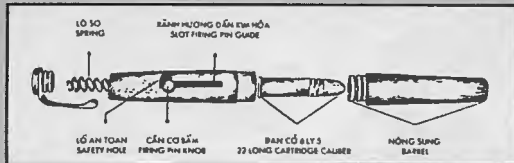


ships between operatives and operatees. Its design is much the same as the sound-suppressed model under discussion here. Various attempts have been made from time to time to fit silencers to pen-gun type devices, but the bulkiness of such a device largely does away with the benefit of a pen gun, which is its small size.

Designed by Army Ordnance, thousands of these diminutive "Stingers" were procured by the OSS during World War II for issue to agents. It would fit in a watch pocket. Drawing: Jim Scofield



Considering the compactness of the suppressor in the article, it may well have been a "wet" type. Weapons ideas are stolen back and forth *ad nauseum* — the Viet Cong issued a 9mm copy of the U.S. M3A1, with a Bell-Labs type suppressor, improved to a wet type with an oil-soaked wool blanket. ARVN drawing, via *Northwest Arms Collector*



Pen guns crop up everywhere from time to time — this typical specimen was issued by the Viet Cong. ARVN drawing, via *Northwest Arms Collector*

ships between operatives and operatees. Its design is much the same as the sound-suppressed model under discussion here. Various attempts have been made from time to time to fit silencers to pen-gun type devices, but the bulkiness of such a device largely does away with the benefit of a pen gun, which is its small size.

One might speculate from the small size of the suppressor in question, and the fact it appears to have been professionally engineered in other respects, that it was of the wet type. The use of an evaporative liquid to make the heat and explosive force of a muzzle blast do work by converting the liquid to a vapor — thus cooling the gases, reducing their pressure and in turn the muzzle blast and its noise — is not a new idea. But it can be very effective within a small package. The Viet Cong, for instance, issued the Chicom M-37 (a 9mm copy of the U.S. M3A1 "Greasegun") with a suppressor similar to the 5,000 that Bell Labs made for the OSS-issued M3. But with an improvement: they included oil-soaked wool wrappings within the primary chamber, which not only cooled and contracted the expanding gases, but helped to keep the exterior tube from becoming too hot to handle during sustained fire.

New combinations of existing ideas continually meld with new technology and mission requirements to provide ingenious tools for a very specialized craft.

— Don McLean

complications. I experimented with the (not very original) idea of hiding the weapon in a folded newspaper. The weapon was easily hidden, but there was a snag. If I was not very careful, the knurled knob would catch the paper and cause the striker to hang, or to strike the primer with insufficient force. That sort of problem could prove embarrassing on a mission.

I was not surprised to find no manufacturers marks or serial numbers on the weapon. The quality of the machining was professional, but the finish of this particular specimen was showing signs of neglect.

The cyclic rate of the weapon is inherently low, in the region of two rounds per minute. To reload, one has to unscrew the firing mechanism, claw out the empty case, insert a live round, screw the firing mechanism back on and manipulate the firing pin.

A potential user of this device would therefore need a lot of faith in the .22 round, and his ability to place it where it would do the most damage. Its employment would require someone who is able to deal with people at a very personal level.

Rumor had it that the weapon I examined had travelled to Europe. The murder of ANC member Dulcie September, in Paris,



The weapon, assembled and loaded, is still compact.

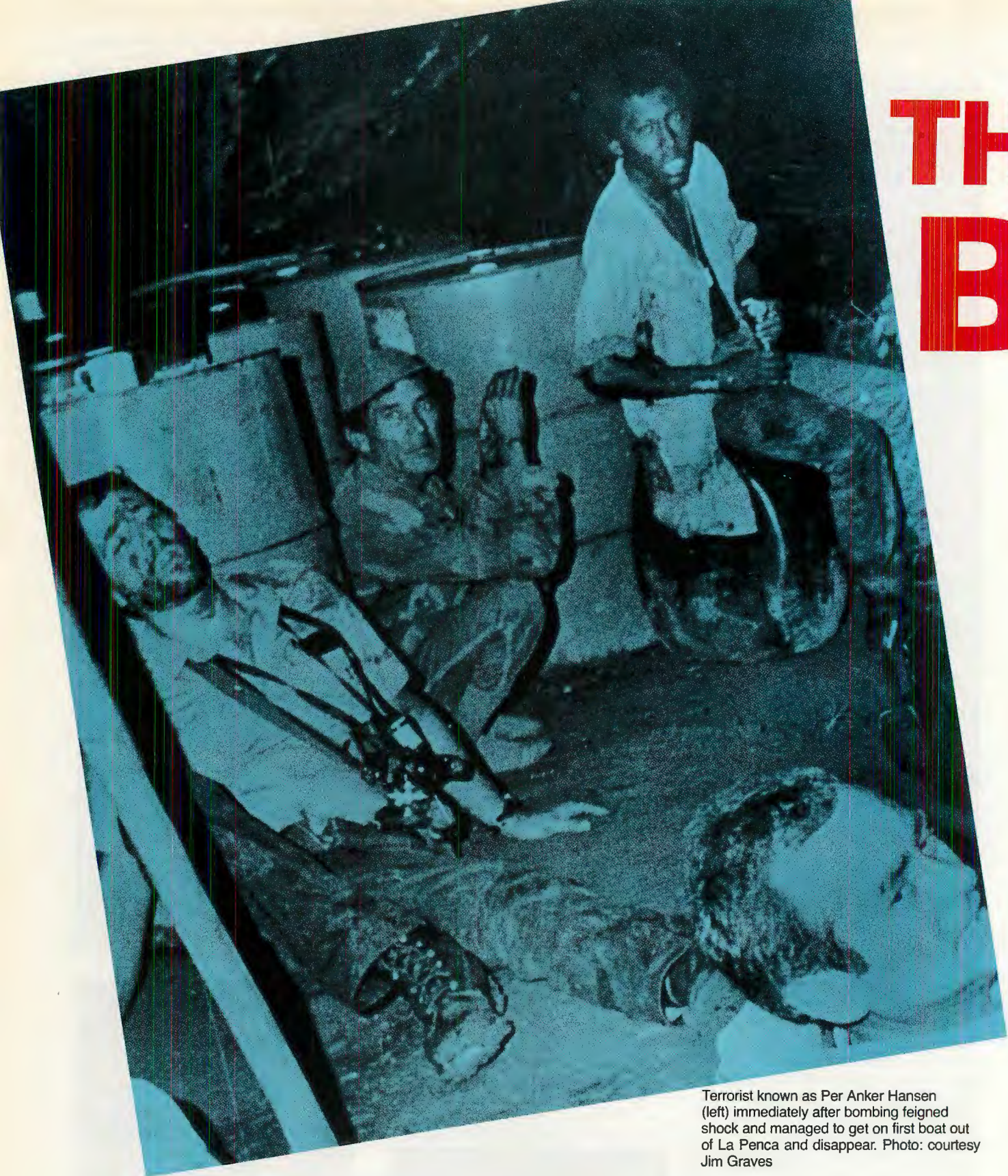


As with most "pen-gun" type weapons, empty casings must be removed by hand.

comes to mind. She was shot by person or persons unknown, at close range, with a .22. I wonder ...

Graham Ambler is an African photo-journalist. 🐘

THE B



Terrorist known as Per Anker Hansen (left) immediately after bombing feigned shock and managed to get on first boat out of La Penca and disappear. Photo: courtesy Jim Graves

It was a monster of a story. A group of right-wing expatriate Americans, Nicaraguan contras, former American intelligence and military officers, cocaine barons from Colombia, zealous anticommunist Cuban-Americans and high-ranking American officials had plotted to kill a tiresome contra commander named Eden Pastora.

The anti-Pastora faction supposedly wanted him dead because: one, he wouldn't play the Central Intelligence Agency's game; two, Pastora was actually a secret communist; and three, he refused to allow his front in Costa Rica to be used as a cover for narcotics smuggling.

The assassination attempt came at La Penca, Nicaragua — a Pastora base camp

in the swampy jungle just north of the Costa Rican border — during a press conference the night of 30 May 1984. The evidence indicates the bomber brought in an explosive-rigged camera case, placed it under a table Pastora was using for a map display and then slipped out to trigger the bomb via a remote control radio device.

Pastora walked away, albeit with a lot of

E IG LIE

Christic Cover-up Veils Truth Behind La Penca Bombing

by Jim Graves



Tony Avirgan and Martha Honey. Photos: courtesy Jim Graves

shrapnel in his legs, only because a contra radio operator kicked the camera case over and was standing astraddle it when the bomb went off. Eight were killed, at least 20 injured, both contras and journalists.

Among the wounded was one Anthony Avirgan, an American freelancer/stringer based in San Jose, Costa Rica. Avirgan, Swedish TV journalist Peter Torbjornsson

and Danish photographer Per Anker Hansen were in the first boat of casualties evacuated to a nearby civilian hospital in Costa Rica.

Then and now, the doctor on duty was troubled by the threesome. Avirgan had some minor wounds to his hand and side, Hansen some superficial scratches and Torbjornsson more of the same. Back in the

swamps around La Penca waiting for boats to evacuate them were 20 or so badly wounded journalists, some with massive and eventually fatal injuries.

By early the next morning, the seriously injured were in the hospital when the troublesome trio moved on to San Jose — Avirgan in company with his wife, journalist Martha Honey, Torbjornsson and Hansen together.

Within hours Hansen vanished.

Over the next few months, as the search for Hansen fanned out to cover the world, it became clear his apprehension was unlikely. His passport turned out to have been stolen in Denmark in 1980 and other clues as to his identity, even his nationality, led to dead ends. Of all the press corps in Costa Rica, Torbjornsson had the most contact with Hansen, having hired him for odd jobs from time to time. But Torbjornsson has never been questioned as to why he did not find it suspicious that Hansen spoke poor Danish but excellent Spanish. Patricia Anne Bonne de Marescot, a French woman who traveled with Hansen from time to



Edén Pastora, target of terrorist bomber during press conference at La Penca, Nicaragua, on 30 May 1984. Photo: AP/Wide World

time, also disappeared. Her passport turned out to be a forgery. One Central American intelligence officer who came into contact with her insists she was an American.

The story was dead, until mid-1985 when Avirgan and Honey published *La Penca: Report On An Investigation* which claimed that Hansen was actually one Amac Galil and that Galil had planted the bomb at La Penca on behalf of the Honduran-based contras of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), a seedy lot of Cuban-America contra supporters based in Costa Rica, and an American rancher in northern Costa Rica named John Hull. The

bombing was supposedly political and business related, as all three parties supposedly were in the cocaine business.

The Avirgan-Honey report was generally ignored by the mainstream media in America, primarily because the documentation was as thin as spring ice in Mississippi, the whole scenario being based on one eyewitness — identified only by the first name David and conveniently missing and presumed dead.

The story would have remained dead except for the dynamic duo of Ed Perry and Brian Barger of the Associated Press. Perry

Sheehan began his research into the Honey-Avirgan accusations, and what had been a complex, hard-to-follow and harder-yet-to-swallow conspiracy started mutating like a malignant amoeba in a 1950s science fiction movie. By early 1986, when SOF first became aware of the Christic theory, Hansen had evolved into a Libyan/Chilean secret agent of a clandestine cabal of former American intelligence officers and military men running wild around the world for over 40 years, assassinating enemies and starting wars on profits from gun, heroin and cocaine smuggling.



Red Cross workers take Pastora to hospital in Costa Rica after bomb explosion. He was saved from death when suitcase containing bomb was knocked over, redirecting force of blast. Photo: AP/Wide World

and Barger, formerly of the *Washington Post*, were working on articles stating that the contras were heavily involved in cocaine smuggling and in violations of arms smuggling and neutrality laws by pro-contra American civilians. Barger and Perry were presumably hostile to the contras, as they were the reporters behind the overblown story on the CIA assassinating manual.

Barger and Perry were having trouble selling their cocaine-and-contras story to their editors at the AP in 1985 — the Mississippi ice problem again — when Honey arrived looking for a free attorney to sue the nefarious cabal she and Avirgan believed responsible for La Penca.

Barger introduced Honey to Daniel Sheehan, then with an obscure Washington-based leftist group called the Christic Institute. Sheehan, a veteran of numerous leftist causes, leaped at the case. For Honey-Avirgan, two long time lefties with records going back to the 1960s, the union with the leftist Christic Institute was a perfect match.

In the summer of 1986 Sheehan filed his law suit in Federal District Court in Miami, Florida.

Cleverly, Sheehan's lawsuit was targeted against no serving members of the American government. That would have brought legal, financial and information gathering resources into play which he probably didn't want to go up against.

The law under which he filed was also carefully chosen. The Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, started life in Congress as a new hammer to whack Mafiosi with, but, much like Sheehan's SciFi amoeba, it keeps growing, and growing and GROWING!

Lawyers soon discovered that RICO could be brought into almost any civil suit — even a divorce action — and that it gives plaintiffs significant legal and publicity advantages. Rules of evidence under civil RICO are looser. They grant plaintiffs broad powers to subpoena and examine the defendant's financial records, and awards are greater since plaintiffs can ask for triple damages. And rightly or wrongly, being tagged a "racketeer" carries a certain stigma.

America's mainstream media fell for it.

The story had a lot going for it. Everyone believes, or wants to believe, that CIA

spooks — or in this case former CIA agents — are capable of nefarious deeds. The story also had merciless, cruel Central American guerrillas slinking around in the shadows killing journalists. Then there were the huge sums of money financing mysterious flights of planes flown by seedy adventurers ferrying guns south and cocaine north. In the argot of the trade, the story had sex appeal.

Initially, most of the play came from leftists inside the media. Barger had moved on from the AP to CBS's *West 57th Street*, where he teamed up with Leslie Cockburn, wife of Andrew Cockburn, sister-in-law of *Nation* columnist Alexander Cockburn and daughter-in-law of Claude Cockburn, a propagandist for the Party back in the Spanish Civil War. Cockburn's first of three shows getting the Christic version out aired in June 1986. By 1988 Atlantic Monthly Press had published her book, *Out Of Control*, essentially a duplication of Sheehan's basic theory.

Honey and Avirgan, who string for *The Sunday Times* of London, the BBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Company, ABC and National Public Radio (NPR) pushed elements of the story to their outlets. NPR liked the story a lot. The *Columbia Journalism Review* weighed in with an atta-boys puff piece on Barger-Perry in the fall of 1986 and a Honey piece claiming the CIA was using journalistic cover for operatives in Central America in early 1987. The Big Three of America's hard left, *The Nation*, *The Progressive* and *The People's Daily World* (nee *People's Daily Worker* and the official organ of America's Communist Party), beat the drum and the story started to get big play in what is often called the alternative press (single-city-focused free-distribution weeklies) and the college press.

Mainstream media carried the basics of the case in an uncritical and generally pro-Christic manner. None of the media that had the resources, referred to — let alone investigated — the backgrounds of the journalists who were making the accusations. Nor did they ask any hard questions about the Christics. They generally identified the Christics as a Washington-based interfaith group and Honey-Avirgan as legitimate journalists. The investigative reporter tigers were never let out of their cages to track down where the Christics seed money came from and there were no references in the mainstream media to the questionable past activities of Honey-Avirgan.

The Christics delayed the day of reckoning in court while cranking up the public relations wagon. Sheehan and other Christic spokespersons criss-crossed the country lecturing before little old lefties in tennis shoes in libraries, schools and churches. Hollywood, naturally, loved the story. Bright-eyed, clean-living lefties up against the swarthy, trench-coated forces of evil. Ed Asner, Jackson Browne and Oliver Stone all came on board. Pro-Christic dialogue, "Danny Sheehan is my hero,"

popped up in *Cagney & Lacey*, and a good portion of the plot wound up in a season-closing *Miami Vice*.

Big, big money started to roll in both from the buckets and hats passed around at Christic dos and from a veritable cottage industry of La Penca products. The Christics sold videos, copies of legal filings in the case, a professional and slick comic book called *Christic Comix*, tape recordings of Sheehan speeches, etc. The Christics had to hire additional clerical staff — money counting is tiresome work — and when the Iran-Contra story broke, the Christics credibility peaked as several defendants named in the La Penca case in 1986 were key players in Iran-Contra.

Big city and small dailies uncritically printed the Christic version. All across the country pro-Christic letters popped up on Letter-to-the-Editor pages and the street theater brigades scurried around pasting up "Contra Cocaine" posters on trash bins. Liberal mainstream magazines like *The New Republic*, *Rolling Stone* and *Vanity Fair* did pieces. Bill Moyers did a pro-Christic show for his PBS series. *Vanity Fair's* Michael Shnayerson wrote in the May 1988 issue, "Did Ollie North's pals run covert drug and assassination operations in Cuba, Vietnam, Chile, Iran and Nicaragua. We'll find out next month in court."

Well, it didn't quite work out that way. Federal District Court Judge James Lawrence King tossed the case out of court on 23 June 1988.

Of 2,176 people on Sheehan's witness list, 12% turned out to be unavailable to

couldn't remember who they were); or it was clear that they could not have firsthand information about what they were supposed to testify about. Other pro-Christic witnesses had memory lapses as the legal wheels began to grind. Perry, who moved from the AP over to CNN, was outraged that Sheehan had listed him as a source, and complained to him and was taken off the list. Jack Terrell, military commander for a time for Tom Posey's Civilian Military Assistance and who had supplied Sheehan with some key information, took the Fifth on those items.

One of the hearsay sources dragged *Soldier of Fortune* magazine into it. One Gene Wheaton, who attended several SOF parties at my house in Washington, D.C., on the strength of his friendship with some retired CIA agents, was cited by Sheehan as having told him that retired Major General Jack Singlaub (a defendant) had traveled to Central America with John "I.W." Harper in 1984 to train contras in the use of explosives and boobytraps. Sheehan's affidavit went on to state: "It is believed that Defendant Singlaub and [Editor/Publisher Robert K.] Brown provided the services of Harper to Defendant Amac Galil to assist in constructing the C-4 bomb used for the La Penca bombing."

Were that true, SOF has access to a working time machine and are we gonna have some

fun. "I.W." Harper does know his demolitions and did go to Central America with a SOF team to train contras but it was in early 1985 (see "SOF Trains Contras," SOF, Oct. '90) and the La Penca bomb went off in May 1984. Harper has solid, overwhelming documentary proof that he never left the Washington, D.C., area throughout 1984.

What I always found endlessly amusing about the Harper-SOF bit was that when Pastora came to Washington in early 1985 to seek support in Congress, the translator who accompanied him from Costa Rica was SOF Central American correspondent Steve Salisbury, an old and trusted friend of Pastora. I met with Pastora on a number of occasions in Washington and one night he ventured out to my house in the woods around McLean, Virginia, for dinner. Harper, a close friend, was a phone call and only a few

miles away.

Frustrated by all the Christic nonsense, I told a Washington journalist, who was running on about the La Penca story one night, that "If Singlaub, Brown and Harper wanted Pastora dead couldn't something have been arranged that night in Virginia when he came here with our guy as his only aide?"

Another idiot had me pounding walls and kicking chairs after a call regarding Honey-Avirgan's Amac Galil. I explained that outside of Honey-Avirgan no one anywhere at any time had reported the existence of one top-operative named Amac Galil and that I was convinced that the name was bogus and therefore preferred to call him Per Anker Hansen. "But he has to exist," the reporter claimed. "Sheehan has his picture."



Moments before the bomb went off rebel leader Eden Pastora (left) speaks with newsmen. Next to Pastora is Susan Morgan of *Newsweek*, who was badly injured. Photo: AP/Wide World

"I have the same photo," I said, "and in my copy he's not holding a sign that says 'I'm the real Amac Galil.' And you know he looks exactly like the guy who called himself Per Anker Hansen."

Singlaub, who in 1986-87 was in and out of Pastora's camps in Costa Rica and battling hard with the powers in Washington to ensure Pastora got a fair share of the aid going south, found the media's inability to take a logical look at the Christic fable frustrating as well.

In the manner of such things, media coverage of Judge King's scathing summary judgment against the Christics was minimal, and worse, some months later when he awarded the defendants a Rule 11 judgment of over \$1 million against the Christics, Honey and Avirgan for recovery and of legal costs, the media virtually ignored it.

Rule 11 judgments are essentially granted when the plaintiffs', and the plaintiffs' attorneys' conduct is deemed out-



Eden Pastora and aide Tito Chamorro (on stretcher in front) are evacuated by boat from La Penca after bombing. Photo: AP/Wide World

testify in Miami; they were dead you see, some in fact had died prior to the 1980s. Some witnesses/sources whose identity Sheehan had kept confidential (even from the defendants' attorneys) to protect them from retribution (presumably from the defendants) denied what was attributed to them; turned out to be unlocatable (Sheehan

Continued on page 92

FIJA: THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

The Final Peaceable Barrier to Gun Confiscation

by Gary S. Marbut

OUR founding fathers, those who wrote the Constitution, understood that someday we might be faced with a tyrannical government that would attempt to purge our constitutional rights. They thoughtfully provided an ace in the hole for such a circumstance. They provided that a jury could not be forced to convict anyone of a crime if at least *one* juror was convinced that the accused was being tried under an unfair law — or an unfair application of a just law — and held out for acquittal. The procedure is called *Jury Nullification*, because it allows juries to “nullify” unjust or unpopular laws.

Although judges nowadays usually refuse to allow juries to be told about their power of jury nullification, the principle and the power still exist. Judges usually tell juries that they may consider only the “facts” of a case, and must accept the judge’s conclusions about any law in question.

But as recently as 1972, in *U.S. vs. Dougherty*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit held that a jury has an “unreviewable and irreversible power ... to acquit in disregard of the instruction on law given by the trial judge ... the pages of history shine on instances of the jury’s exercise of its prerogative to disregard instructions of the judge, for example, acquittals under the fugitive slave law.”

Although the Supreme Court continues to recognize and affirm the power of juries to acquit if they disagree with the law being used to try a defendant, the Court has also decided that judges no longer have to tell jurors of their right to judge the law itself. Worse yet, the Court has ruled that defense attorneys who reminded jurors of this right can be cited for contempt of court.

The principle of jury nullification is incredibly important now, with national, state and local consideration of unconstitu-

tionally confiscatory gun laws. The issue will be coming to a head because patriots in 20 states are currently working on constitutional and statutory initiatives to require juries to be informed of their power to judge the laws. This is called the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA), and will be discussed more, later in this article.

History of Jury Nullification

As a particular defense in criminal trials, jury nullification was first recognized in 1665 when Lord Hale wrote “...it is the

**Jury nullification
may well become
the final peaceful
barrier between con-
stitutionally law-
abiding gun owners
and a tyrannical
government bent on
disarming the non-
criminal public.**

conscience of the jury, that must pronounce the prisoner *guilty* or *not guilty*.” Later, in 1670, William Penn was indicted and tried for preaching before an unlawful assembly. Penn had been preaching to Quakers, not the government-established religion. Four of the 12 jurors refused to convict Penn,

despite his admission that he had acted as accused. These four jurors were convinced that the law under which Penn was being tried was unfair.

All of the Penn jurors were imprisoned and held “without meat, drink, fire and tobacco” and fined for their refusal to convict Penn. Juror Bushnell was released from prison upon demand of friends who produced a writ of *habeas corpus*. The hearing over this writ of *habeas corpus* set everlasting precedent when it came before Chief Justice Vaughn of the Court of Common Pleas. Vaughn abolished the practice of punishing juries for their verdicts, and held that if juries returned verdicts contrary to their consciences they would be in violation of their oaths. This ruling was one of the five or 10 most consequential rulings any court has ever made.

The next landmark in the history of jury nullification was a trial in the British colony of New York in 1735, when Peter Zenger, a publisher, published unsigned articles designed to expose the corruption of New York government officials. A grand jury refused to indict Zenger, so he was arrested by government officials and charged administratively with seditious libel.

Defense attorney Andrew Hamilton, at some risk, was able to coach the jury that it had “... the right beyond all dispute to determine both the law and the facts, and where they do not doubt the law, they ought to do so.” Hamilton exhorted the jury that freeing Zenger would be “...the best cause, it is the cause of liberty; and I make no doubt but your upright conduct this day will not only entitle you to the love and esteem of your fellow citizens; but every man who prefers freedom to a life of slavery will bless and honor you as men who have baffled the attempt of tyranny.” The jury refused to



convict Zenger.

John Adams observed, in 1771, "...is a juror obliged to give his verdict ... and submit the law to the court? Every man, of any feeling or conscience, will answer no. It is not only his right, but his duty, in that case to find the verdict according to his best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay, when charging a jury in *Georgia vs. Brailford* in 1794, advised the jury, "...you have, nevertheless, a right to take upon yourselves to judge ... the law as well as the fact in controversy."

Northern juries regularly nullified the federal Fugitive Slave Law before the Civil War by refusing to convict citizens of aiding and abetting runaway slaves from the South. The juries' right and power of jury nullification was well-known, well-respected, and well-exercised in those times.

Late in the 1800s, judges began denying permission for defense attorneys to tell juries about their ability to consider the validity of the law. Instead, judges told juries that the jury would be bound to accept the judges' conclusions about any law in question. This change occurred largely because of pressure on judges from corporate leaders, who were not getting convictions of workers for then illegal strikes.

Current Efforts and Need

Today, juries have the full and unquestioned power to bring in a verdict of acquittal, even if flying in the face of the law, the facts, and the wish of the trial judge, whenever the members of the jury believe the defendant is being tried under an unjust law, or a law unjustly applied. Any one conscientious juror can hold out for acquittal and hang a jury (deny conviction) for this reason alone.

This power of jury nullification may well become the final peaceful barrier between constitutionally law-abiding gun owners and a tyrannical government bent on disarming the non-criminal public. When confiscatory gun laws are passed, no single person can be convicted or punished under those laws without the full agreement of 12 out of 12 of the gun owner's "peers" serving on his jury. If these peers understand their power to judge the law, convictions will be unlikely.

A great modern example is Bernhard Goetz, who defended himself with a firearm in a New York subway against multiple assailants. Although Goetz was accused of multiple crimes of felonious intent, a jury of his peers simply refused to convict him of these asserted crimes, this despite general agreement of the facts in the case. In the last result, the jury only convicted Goetz of possession of an unregistered firearm. The jury might well

have acquitted Goetz of this charge if its members had understood their full power to judge the law.

For jury nullification to work as it should, and to provide protection for constitutional behavior by gun owners, it is only necessary that jurors and prospective jurors be informed about their power to judge the law and its application.

Thus, there is critical need for informing jurors of their jury nullification power. Maryland and Indiana already have mandates for informing juries written into their constitutions. For example, Article XV, section 5, of the Maryland Constitution states, "In trial of all criminal cases, the Jury shall be the Judges of Law, as well as of facts, except that the Court may pass upon the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain a conviction."

Proposals by initiatives were being advanced in 1989/1990 in 20, possibly 23, states to incorporate into state constitutions and state laws the requirement to inform juries about their power to judge the law. These proposals have come to be known as the Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) or Fully Informed Jury Initiative (FIJI). The states where these measures were being prepared for introduction were: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, North Dakota, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and the District of Columbia, and possibly in Oklahoma, Nebraska and Utah.

Gun owners interested in encouraging the protection of their rights inherent in fully informed juries are already being drawn to these efforts in their states. The beginning Montana effort has already been endorsed by the Big Sky Practical Shooting Club, and will almost certainly be supported by other organizations of gun owners once they are made aware of the effort and its consequences.

Any persons interested in contact information for FIJA proponents in their states, or more information about FIJA, should call national FIJA coordinator Don Doig at (406) 793-5550, or write to FIJA at P.O. Box 59, Helmsville, MT 59843. This is an effort that is worthy of energetic support by all concerned gun owners. Do not ignore this dramatic opportunity. Contact FIJA and help the effort in your state. The FIJA is important to the preservation of our cherished Second Amendment rights. Every potential juror in America must know the truth. Contact FIJA, and pass this article along to a friend.

Reference: For a thorough treatment of the history and status of jury nullification, see the *Southern California Law Review* article entitled *Jury Nullification: The Right to Say No* (1972, Vol. 45:168), by Alan W. Schefflin.

Gary S. Marbut, currently president of the Montana Rifle and Pistol Association and the Montana Legal Foundation, is a prolific writer and proprietor of B.I.T. Enterprises and Public Policy Research and Analysis.

FORBIDDEN FLIGHT

THE loudspeakers boomed across the open-air theater: "Attention all personnel ... We have had a report that one of our aircraft has flown over a restricted area ... If this is true it is your duty and responsibility to report it to headquarters ... The consequences could be serious if you fail to do so ... This matter will be pursued until we find out if the report is true ... I repeat ..."

I glanced at my buddy, chuckled and said, "What are they talking about?"

It was August 1945 and our 17th Reconnaissance Bomb Squadron was flying out of Ie Shima, a small Japanese island in the Ryukyu chain. Our B-

25Js had been flying in support of mop-up operations in the Philippines, making napalm strikes and strafing with our 18 .50 caliber machine guns. In addition, we were equipped for aerial photography. Good targets were getting scarce, but occasionally we caught a train or some coastal shipping. "Shipping" is a little generous, for at this stage of the war the Japanese were transporting men and materiel in anything that would float. We were also flying strikes to Formosa and mainland China.

As a radioman-gunner, my "trigger time" alternated between a .50 caliber waist gun, a Morse key, and a camera shutter. With 67 combat flights under my belt, I'd had plenty of time on all three.

Our routine all changed when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We weren't given a lot of details on these missions, but from the scuttlebutt everyone knew that we had used a new weapon of immense destruction and that the war should soon be over. Before long we were down to the required number of hours

to keep our flight pay coming.

Then one evening our pilot, Link Piazza, called me aside and asked if I would fly with him on a special flight the next day. Having put in all of my combat time with him, I knew Captain Piazza as a top-notch pilot — one of the best. Sure, I'd go. Besides our co-pilot and navigator, three photographers

from the squadron photo lab would go along.

I soon learned that Capt. Piazza planned to use a scheduled recon of Sakishima Island, just north of the Philippines, as a cover mission to sneak a private peek at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. My job would be to radio position

reports which would show us to be on the authorized mission.

The next day we took off with anticipation. The flight was routine and every hour I tapped a position report off to our base. My last contact put us over Sakishima, when in fact we were heading inland over the southern tip of Honshu. We were flying under 300 feet, often as low as 100 feet. Japanese coastal defense batteries pointed skyward, unattended. As we crossed the inland waters between islands we could see surfaced submarines lying at anchor. I counted

as many as a dozen in one harbor. Further inland we flew over a POW camp at about 100 feet and we thought we saw men waving from the windows. As Paul Tibbets observed in his book *Flight of the Enola Gay*, these prisoners would most likely have been executed when Japan prepared to defend her home islands against an Allied invasion. The atomic bomb saved them.

As we neared Hiroshima, the clouds thickened and smoke swirled in through the open waist windows. As prearranged, Capt. Piazza notified me over the intercom when we approached an area that he wanted photographed, and I signaled this to the two photographers who were shooting out of the waist windows.

The putrid, sickening smoke wafting up from the destruction below became thicker inside the plane as we dropped down to 50 feet or so above the remaining rooftops. At the time we had no idea we might be exposing ourselves to deadly radiation. Captain Piazza lowered the landing gear and flaps to drop our airspeed as low as he dared, giving the photographers the best conditions possible.

The devastation I saw gave me a feeling of total shock like I'd never experienced before and haven't experienced since. The surrounding mountainsides were scorched black and there was little left of the city itself. We could see people walking in the streets, as the sidewalks were buried beneath rubble from the demolished buildings.

Every now and then we saw someone on a bicycle. People were rummaging around in the ruins and it looked like some had built lean-tos that they were living in. As we passed over, many people were looking up and waving. This gave me a strange sensa-



The B-25J was a versatile craft used for delivering ordnance, strafing, and aerial reconnaissance. Ordnance was usually on target — sometimes the aerial reconnaissance was not.



The B-25J's crew photographed Japanese submarines swinging on the hook off Honshu — their war ended by the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Army Aviators Joyride Over Ground Zero

by Harry Hall as told to Chris Beebe

Photos Courtesy Harry Hall

tion. Were they still in shock? How could anyone wave to an enemy that had just done this to their city?

We left Hiroshima behind and flew on to Nagasaki, where the scene was much the same. The blackened slopes of the mountains gave me the impression of a great, burned-out bowl. The factory buildings in the industrial heart of the city stood like black skeletal ghosts, with dark smokestacks rising above steel girders that had been warped and twisted by the intense heat of the bomb. Unlike Hiroshima, we could see very little movement in the city. Captain Piazza must have been getting an eyeful too, because we nearly hit one of the remaining buildings. We passed so close to one structure, it gave the camera a distorted image.

Leaving the destruction behind, we raised the gear and flaps and continued on at low altitude until we reached open water. Then we climbed to just below 10,000 feet and I tried to raise our base station on the radio. Our plane was equipped with a trailing antenna that consisted of 200 feet of copper wire with a lead weight on the end. This was reeled in and out by a small electric winch. Now as I turned the antenna switch, I saw to my dismay that the antenna reel was spinning freely, with no antenna wire. I got a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach when I realized that, in the excitement just prior to arriving over Japan, I must have forgotten to reel the antenna in. Now it was probably wrapped around the skeletal remains of a building somewhere in Hiroshima.

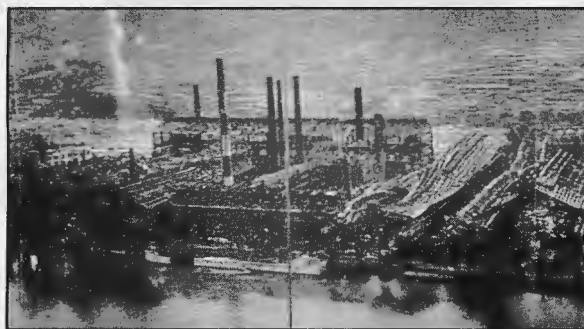
I reported the situation to Capt. Piazza over the intercom and he told me to do the best I could. I switched to the shorter-range

fixed antenna and tapped the Morse key. I was relieved to get an immediate response from our ground station. I sent off a bogus position report as we headed for home.

When we landed and checked in, I headed for my quarters. Later that evening



Hiroshima had only a few masonry buildings standing — and one of them probably got Harry Hall's trailing radio antenna wrapped around it.



Scorched hillsides, smoldering ruins and the skeletal remains of Japanese industry were the sight that greeted crew of phantom B-25J over Nagasaki.

one of the photographers brought a package to my tent. He told me that he had printed a set of photos, 36 in all, for each member of the crew and then destroyed the negatives. No one was to know of the flight or the photos.

I did tell our engineer-gunner and tail gunner, who had not made the flight, of our adventure, and offered them some of the photos, but with the threats being issued from headquarters regarding the rumored flight, both were hesitant to take them.

Official interest in our phantom flight soon cooled down and the issue fell by the wayside, however, because more important things were happening.

On 19 August, two Jap "Betty" bombers took off from Japan and headed for Ie Shima. Painted white with green crosses, as pre-arranged, they were picked up by a flight of P-51 Mustangs and escorted in. A Japanese surrender delegation disembarked and boarded a C-54 transport bound for Manila. There they were to meet with representatives of General Douglas MacArthur to finalize plans for the unconditional surrender of Japan.

Before shipping out, some of our crewmen disposed of their clandestine photos, still fearful of being caught. I brought out six prints, which I cut in half to conceal among my stationery and personal papers.

After 20 years or so, I began showing the pictures to high school classes I was teaching. I still get a thrill every time I look at these photos which, never having been published, have only been seen and enjoyed by a relative few. Today, 45 years have passed since our "forbidden flight." Maybe it's time for this small part of history to go public.

Chris Beebe is an Ohio-based freelance writer. Harry Hall recently retired from a career as an audio-visual teacher. A reunion of his B-25J crew is slated for June in Reno, Nevada.

SANDINISTA ATROCITIES

Nicaraguans Find Skeletons in Ortega's Closet

Text by Marty Casey

Photos Courtesy *Washington Inquirer*

PEACE has settled upon Nicaragua. A freely elected pro-U.S. government is in power; the Sandinista army has been down-sized to conform to Central American reality; the contras have been disarmed and are receiving the aid package promised them by Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson; Tomas Borge, formerly chief of Nicaragua's dreaded state security, is no longer the biggest cocaine smuggler in Central America and now lives in fear of prosecution for ordering the murders of hundreds of innocent *campesinos*. The Ortega brothers, after cutting off all support to Salvador's FMLN, have retired and are living in Havana.

All of the above are false.

True, there are no battles raging in Nicaragua's countryside, but fighting could break out at any time. The freely elected government of Violeta Chamorro attempts to rule with a fragile hand, having committed automatic emasculation by leaving Sandinistas in powerful positions (Humberto Ortega was chosen to head up the army) and leaving many vital decisions to be made by a bevy of dishwasher liberals, incompetents and outright leftist sympathizers.

The Nicaraguan army is now down to 40,000-50,000 men. This is not because of the much-touted reduction in forces, but because of massive defections after Chamorro's UNO won the election.

Those most responsible for free elections, those who fought for years against vastly superior forces and who started to win before a cowardly group of traitors, otherwise known as the U.S. Congress, pulled the rug out, have been shafted by almost everyone. The Ortega brothers agreed to free elections only as a means to pressure the contras to disband. After the UNO win in February, Assistant Secretary

of State Bernard Aronson, a Carter liberal appointed by George Bush, gave orders to his subordinates: "Disarm the contras no matter what." That was accomplished by pressure and promises. Pressure from State and a cutoff of all aid and promises from



Extent of Sandinista killings are not yet known, but every week more skeletons are found in mass grave sights.

the UN and the Organization of American States. Agreements were made, agreements were broken.

Once the contras disarmed they were shunted to the side. Promised land, health care and economic aid evaporated faster than the State Department's backing. Recently small groups of contras have returned to the hills, while others are invading vacant lands trying to eke out at least a small yield of crops. If the situation is not rectified, another much more bloody civil war could break out.

Daily, large amounts of weapons and

ammunition flow from the Cosciguina area in northwestern Nicaragua to El Salvador in support of the Marxist FMLN. Not only has the flow not stopped, it has increased in anticipation of the FMLN's next offensive.

Former chief of state security, Tomas Borge, runs around Managua with a large staff of bodyguards eating at all the fancy restaurants, while his subordinates continue to sell arms to Colombian narcoterrorists in exchange for multi-kilo shipments of cocaine. The arms leave the eastern coast near Bluefields and head south, while the dope is transported from Colombia to San Andres, a Colombian island 120 miles east of Bluefields. The dope is then taken to Little Corn Island, then to Honduras by fast boat. From there, it goes to the States. But the most heinous crimes of Tomas Borge, against the wishes of many, are finally coming to light.

For years *campesino* cries of brutal treatment at the hands of Borge's state security forces were all but ignored. Hundreds disappeared but few cared. Cases were documented and reported to organizations such as Americas Watch, Amnesty International and the media, but many times those reporting were dismissed as right-wing fanatics or as contra supporters with a political agenda. Since it was impossible to send investigative teams into Nicaragua, the reports of assassinations, torture and disappearances lay idle.

One group, the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (NAHR), headed by Dr. Marta Patricia Baltadano, kept the pressure on. The NAHR issued bulletin after bulletin while field workers inside Nicaragua gathered intelligence against tremendous threats from state security agents. The one thing missing was cooperation from local peasants. This help was not to come until after the Sandinista election defeat.



Bones dug out of mass grave near Wiwili, Nicaragua.

In late May, peasants from the Mokoron area of Jinotega started to talk. Many had seen piles of bones exposed after the high winds and heavy rains of Hurricane Juana ravaged the area in late 1988. Until May the Sandinista 363rd Brigade had used the area as an artillery observation post and the campesinos were afraid to be seen in the area. When the demobilization deal was struck with the contras, the area became a demilitarized zone and the army moved out.

Campesinos then went through the area trying to identify the remains, but to no avail. The NAHR was contacted and an investigative team was sent to the area. A doctor was able to reassemble 10 identifiable remains, including that of a young boy. None of the skeletal remains showed any bullet holes, and the doctor stated that all of their throats had been cut. Family members of seven of the murdered were able to identify the remains mainly through the clothing found at the spot.

The discovery and subsequent splash in the local media caused a firestorm of outrage and had the Sandinistas scrambling. But the murderers of innocent civilians found an ally in none other than the Chamorro government. During the interim between February's elections and the April inauguration, the Sandinista-controlled national assembly had declared a general amnesty. The limp-wristed Chamorro government declared that the murders of innocent civilians by security forces were covered by that amnesty. Some members of the ruling party even suggested that the NAHR cease any further investigations. But the NAHR was not to be deterred.

Founded in 1986 by human rights workers who picked up considerable experience monitoring the Somoza regime, the NAHR was given a mandate by the U.S. Congress to monitor abuses committed by contra



Clothing found in mass graves indicated victims were ordinary campesinos.

forces. The NAHR set up workshops, training and investigative units within contra ranks.

"It was rough going; at first the contras looked upon us as Sandinistas, but eventually came to realize the program worked," Marta Patricia Baltadano said. The NAHR also realized that contra abuses were nowhere near what was being reported in the press, but the fact remained that people were being brutalized. Since those monitoring the Sandinistas — Americas Watch, Witnesses for Peace and Amnesty International — were playing a partisan, pro-Sandinista role, the NAHR lobbied for and received an additional mandate from Congress to monitor and report abuses by both sides in the conflict.

So long as NAHR was reporting only contra abuses the pro-Sandinista groups remained quiet, but as soon as NAHR started to issue reports of Sandinista massa-

gres, the attacks began. The NAHR was in turn labeled, "pro-contra," "mouthpieces for the contras," "linked to the contras and the U.S. Congress," "lackeys of the State Department," etc.

The Mokoron discovery opened the flood gates. Soon after Mokoron hit the press, campesinos from the Murra area of Nueva Segovia informed the NAHR of the location of another common grave near Murra. Excavation was begun in August of the skeletal remains of 16 male members of the Evangelical Church of Murra, killed by state security forces on 10 April 1982 — all displayed bullet holes in their craniums.

The Sandinistas have been scrambling to get out of this predicament. While the Eastern Bloc has dropped most socialist tendencies, the Sandinistas still receive large amounts of support from European socialists in Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium and other countries. The news of the

mass graves must bring back memories of Hitler and Stalin. *Barricada*, the official Sandinista daily, has suggested that Mokoron is a graveyard used to bury those killed in battle, yet cannot explain away the fact that those interred in Mokoron had no bullet wounds. After years of Sandinista propaganda, repeated by the media, that portrayed them as the good guys, while painting a very black picture of the contras, leftists absolutely cringe when Mokoron is mentioned — and it is but the tip of a large iceberg.

Currently the NAHR, with the help of campesinos, is working on hundreds of cases of disappearances. "The campesinos know where the bodies are buried, but up to now have been afraid to confide in anyone," Baltadano said. Unfortunately the money allotted by the U.S. Congress is about to run out, but Baltadano vows to continue until the last of the disappeared are accounted for. We wish her luck.

Marty Casey is a frequent contributor to SOF on Central American affairs.


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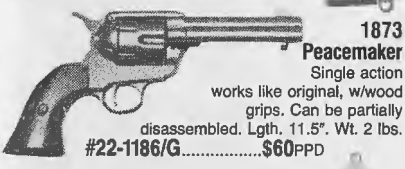
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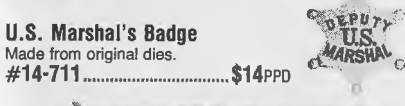
WWII Dagger
German Diplomatic Dress. Lgth. 15". Wt. 1 lb.
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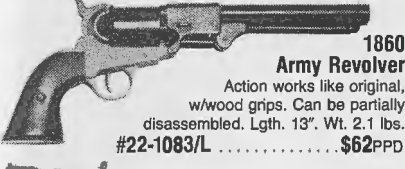
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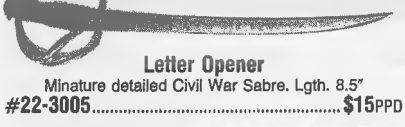
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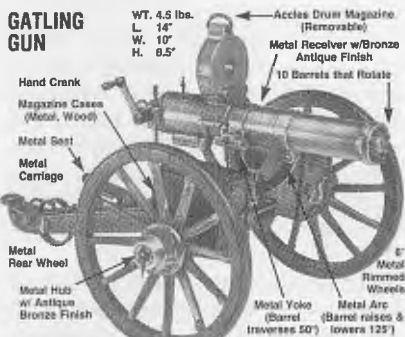
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COMBAT CRAFT

Continued from page 19

trails. Once caught, the animal usually lunges, which tightens the noose. A deer in such a snare will usually cut his own throat.

A deadfall, drag snare combination (Fig. 4) works well along trails; a similar version without the deadfall works well on rabbit trails. Figure 5 shows a box-type trap often included in survival manuals and courses. We show it here only to show a bad idea. Unless you constantly monitor such "stockade" type traps your meal will quickly dig himself free. You must injure, kill or string up the animal if you expect him to be there when you come back. A variation of this trap, however, will catch and hold ground-feeding birds. Bait the end of the figure-four trigger by pressing seeds into small holes cut into the end of the stick. A few good pecks will dislodge the trigger.

If you have wire, the noose deadfall (Fig. 6) works well for carnivores, especially bears who are much less cautious than large cats or canines.

The principles, mechanisms and dimensions of the basic traps and snares and their triggers should be adapted to fit the terrain, materials available, and game you hope to catch. There are no set rules to this game, except you must eat if you are to survive.

Having thrown out the rules, there are methods that are indiscriminate and wasteful but whose use is legitimized in a survival situation. Explosives will stun or kill fish, but if you have grenades you probably should save them for their intended purpose. But poisons are quiet, and there are many that are lethal to fish that have virtually no effect on man. Most can be found on site.

If you are in one of the many temperate zones with walnuts, the husks (not shell) can be mashed into a slurry and dumped into a pond and will kill most species of fish, without hurting their value as food. Save the nuts for desert. Liquid soaps and detergents cause most species of fish great distress and they will run downstream ahead of it into your traps or net. You can also make soft soap from animal fat and ashes that will have a similar effect. A gallon or two of this slurry dumped all at once in a small stream will do. Commercial liquid soap takes much less — a couple cups for a 20-foot stream.

Seashells or coral (or even limestone or marble) thoroughly burned in a fire to make lime, then powdered the best you can, will kill fish in small ponds or tidal pools.

In the South Pacific and Burma, the seeds and bark of the Barringtonia tree, which grows near the shore, are used

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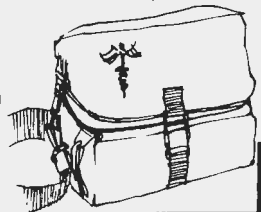
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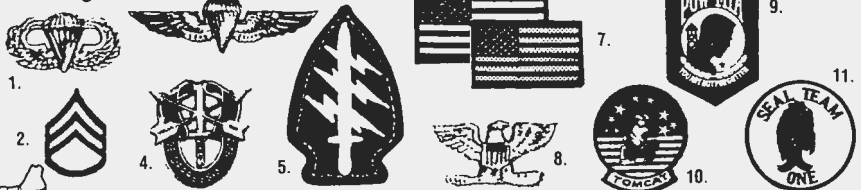


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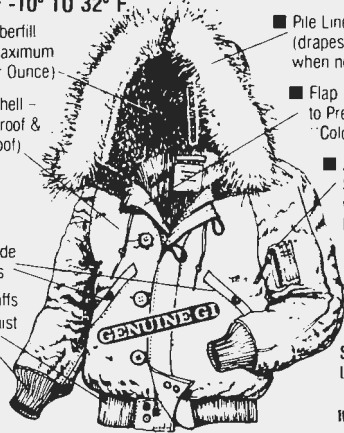


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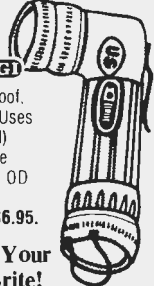
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UNDER FIRE

Continued from page 69

2. Was more likely to qualify quicker and higher on the rifle range.
3. Was more apt to have a positive attitude about the service and was more apt to re-enlist.
4. Was more likely to accept combat assignments, and to join combat units.
5. Was more likely to survive on the battlefield.

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Thus we see that Congressman Fortney "Pete" Stark, in addition to attacking the basic constitutional rights of all Americans, would also undermine the national defense of the United States, and is attacking the well-being of the individual soldier and Marine as well.

George Nyfeler is currently the NRA Field Representative for Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

Readers who feel as we do that the DCM programs are an invaluable asset to our national defense and security should write their congressmen and senators and tell them so. For more information about the DCM programs contact the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, 20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Room 1205, Washington, DC 20314, (202) 272-0810. ☞



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TURNIN' AND BURNIN'

Continued from page 53

Olson will make that much after six years at Delta.

Although Oly misses the camaraderie, he says there was nothing the Navy could have done to keep him in. "I don't even think bigger bonuses are going to take care of the problems," said Olson. "As long as airlines are hiring, guys are going to move in that direction. When the hiring stops, guys will stay in the service, it's as simple as that."

However, changes in the political winds are causing some Navy pilots like Greene to question the need for six-month deployments.

"There were no bad guys out there on our last deployment," said Greene. "Peace is breaking out all over as the brass likes to say, which is good," said Greene as he took telephone messages for buddies in the ready room. "But it makes it a little more difficult to stay motivated for six months away from your family with conditions like that."

Commander Mike Denkler, the commanding officer of VF-31, doesn't like to hear his men talk that way. "Although peace is breaking out, the threat is still there. The quantity might change, but the quality of it is certainly there."

Gordon agrees. "Just like a football team, you always practice for the toughest

team on the schedule, but you've got to play all of the teams. So we just don't look at the Soviets as a threat."

Most of the conflicts the past 40 years have been with Third World countries such as Libya, although Khadaffi's kids kept their distance from the Tomcatters during their recent deployment in the Med. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are classic examples.

"There's a lot more activity out there than just the Soviets," said Lt. Cmdr. Reitmeyer who has no problem with peace breaking out. "I'd love to do 20 years in the Navy and say the only thing I ever won was the Cold War."

The Navy is sailing into an era of budget-cutting that will sharply reduce America's military presence on the high seas in the next 10 years.

Squeezed by planned cutbacks in defense spending and military strategy made obsolete by political upheavals sweeping the Soviet bloc, the Navy has given up its dream of a 600-ship fleet, and is hoping its current arsenal of 550 vessels does not shrink to 450 by 1995.

"The Cold War is won, the budget is going down, and battleships and aircraft carriers are going down with it," said former Assistant Defense Secretary Lawrence Korb of the Brookings Institute, a private think-tank in Washington, D.C.

Korb predicts the Navy will be down to nine aircraft carriers by the end of the decade. But he believes America can be a world player without 14 carriers which cost

taxpayers \$1 million a day each to operate.

A private Washington-based defense information center believes the number of aircraft carriers, each with a crew of 5,000, should be cut to six by the year 2000 if the current peace trend continues. They and other experts point out that the Soviet Navy is not steaming as widely as it once did.

Analyst David Isenburg of the private Cato Institute says, "Carriers have rendered enormous service to the nation and still have a role to perform, but that role does not consist of lingering off the coast of a country, signaling that the United States has menacing intentions."

Budget Cuts and Reduced Flying Time

The budget axe has already fallen on the Navy. Procurement funds for the A-12 aircraft carrier plane have been eliminated from the fiscal 1991 budget request. This simply means the Navy is going to have to make do with F-14 Tomcats, F-18 Hornets and venerable A-6 Intruders in its arsenal.

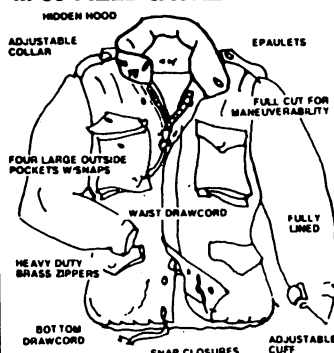
Navy pilots at NAS Oceana would like to fly two or three hops a day, but they're lucky to fly twice a week because of military cutbacks. Lieutenant Commander Todd Miller, one of two Landing Signal Officers (LSOs) assigned to the carrier air group, says the lack of flying time is beginning to show.

"Every time a jet lands aboard a boat, we grade that pass, but there's been a noticeable decrease in the proficiency of our carrier pilots who are flying fewer

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hours because of budget cutbacks," he said.

During his first cruise in the Navy, Miller, who is also a Top Gun Graduate, made more than 100 arrested landings aboard a carrier, but during the recently completed Med cruise, Miller and other pilots made 40% fewer traps.

"Reduced flying time is definitely hurting us," said Miller. "There's always some margin for error, but we're using that margin for error right now. We can't afford to reduce flying time any further or we're going to start dipping into an area that's not safe anymore," said Miller, who had just landed at NAS Oceana after taking his first hop in two weeks.

Lieutenant Tim "Caveman" Cavins from Westerville, Ohio, is not satisfied with his flying time. "If they (the Admirals) start cutting our hours, they're putting us at risk," said Cavins, who says it takes 30 to 35 hours a month to be an extremely proficient fighter pilot. Right now Cavins and his mates are lucky to get 25 hours a month.

In order to avoid cutting flight hours, the Navy may decide to reduce the length of future deployments and their frequency. Flash Gordon feels that could be one way to keep young pilots from "punching out" after their first tour.

"It costs about \$1.5 million to train an F-14 pilot, and we can't continue to lose the cream of the crop like Mike Olson," said Commander Gordon., "They're irre-

placeable."

After "turnin' and burnin' and yankin' and bankin'" over the Atlantic Ocean, we climbed to 36,000 feet, lit the afterburners and went supersonic.

The mach meter monitored our race to the speed of heat. Mach 1 point 3 ... 1 point 35 ... Mach 1 point 4, about 1,200 miles per hour. That's faster than a 30-06 bullet. Soon I found myself back on the ground, my dogfighting time just a fuzzy memory.

Before I left Oceana I asked "Flash" the one question I've long wanted answered: How does it feel to be an F-14 fighter pilot? Flash replied with a grin, "it's like being a member of a motorcycle gang, but your mother still loves you."

Ross Simpson is a Washington-based radio correspondent for NBC. He is a frequent contributor to SOF, whose articles on Operation Just Cause appeared in the May, June and September '90 issues. We received this article from Ross just prior to Op Desert Shield.

GURKHAS

Continued from page 35

changes. But we have no major things happening. We like to talk about our soldiers. They're great.

"We went through a bad spell a few

years back when a series of things happened all at once: the 7 GR business in Hawaii (see "In Defense of the Realm," SOF, July '87), arrests of a few ... But people were trying to relate incidents that weren't really related at all."

As change continues to swirl through the world, particularly Britain, Hong Kong, and Nepal itself, it seems inevitable that the Gurkhas will be touched by the turmoil. For the moment, however, the battalions have changed in far more prosaic ways (see sidebar).

According to Major J.J. Burlison, second in command (2IC) of 1/2 GR, 2/2 GR's sister battalion: "The modern Gurkhas are worldly wise and articulate: they expect more and will call for it. Their own home scene is fast advancing which affects their thoughts about life in general. Times ahead reflect the periodic crises that the Grukha world often takes on. The men seem philosophic about all this in the meantime, but are always alert to any short changing. The importance is to have the knowledge and the confidence to know what is going on and what to do about it."

The 2/2 GR's Gurkha Major could not agree more. "It is difficult to judge the level of the unit compared to the past. At that time, we had the Second World War and Malayan Emergency veterans. There was no break between the Emergency and Sarawak. But if something happened tomorrow, we have similar caliber [men]."

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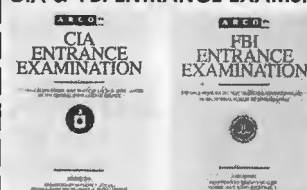


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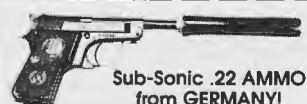
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the Brigade [of Gurkhas] because I wanted to join an elite. My father was a Royal Marine commando. I thought of the commandos, but there's no doubt that had I been born earlier, I would have joined the British Indian army. My father tells me, though, that I made the decision at age six when we were stationed in Singapore. They say it's a gut feeling. I wanted to join an elite, and the Brigade of Gurkhas was the elite. I haven't been disappointed."

Neither has Great Britain.

Tom Marks is SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent. ✂

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 20

Half-step ... forward ... March!" In disbelief, we followed each order, incredulous that our tiny square, only eight men wide, was now moving in lockstep straight down the street, straight into range of thousands of rock-throwing arms. "Left, left, left-right-left," the Platoon Sergeant called the cadence through a dry throat, marching us closer and closer. In the front rank, I watched the crowd over the point of my bayonet and felt my pulse accelerate as we got to 100 yards, then 75.

"Platoon ... Halt!" The lieutenant was giving orders again. "Order arms! Front rank kneel. Rear rank about face! Snipers stand fast!" Through the megaphone, three times and in three different languages, he once again complied with regulations ... "Disperse or we fire." Then more orders to us ... "1st and 2nd ranks ... ready ..."

As we brought our FN rifles into the aim, the crowd, already disconcerted by our advance into them, started losing coherence as the people in front tried to get out of our way.

"... One round special ammunition ... at the mob ... FIRE!"

Sixteen rifles crashed in a single volley and the crowd went crazy. Climbing over each other to get away, even the agitators at the back turned and ran, and the entire mob dissolved before our eyes. As I reflected on the amazing effect of properly employed blank ammunition, the lieutenant was already getting us on the move again, continuing down the street at a slow, deliberate pace, completing our first task in restoring order to Gwelo.

For the rest of the that day and well into the night we chased small groups of looters and arsonists, and broke up larger gatherings before they turned really ugly. By midnight, the police had regained control and most fires had burned themselves out. With the news that a company of Rhodesian African Rifles would relieve us the next day, we

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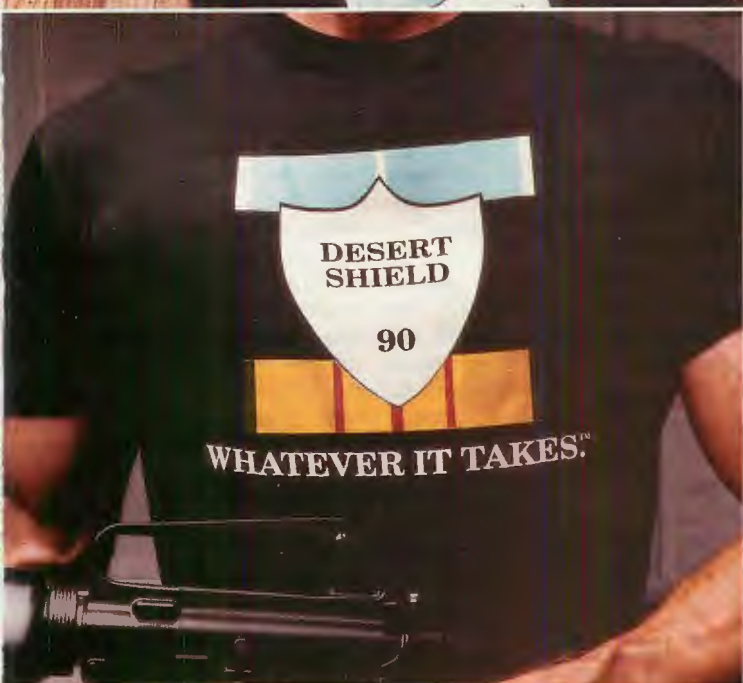
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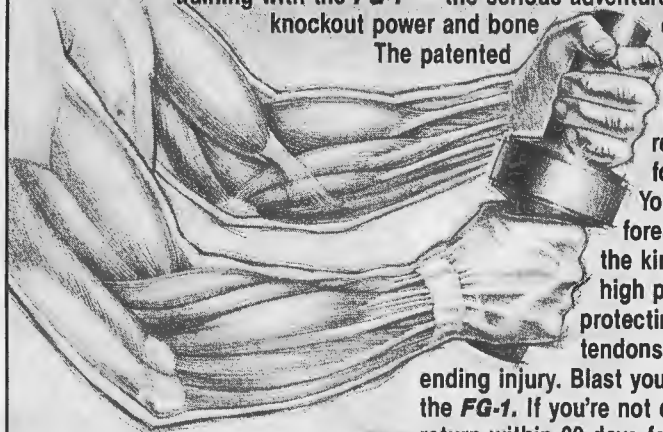
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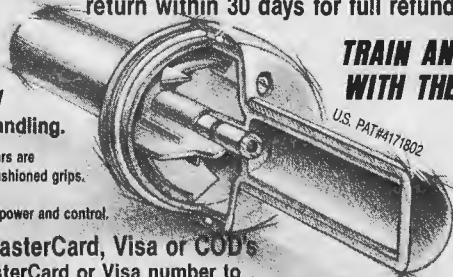


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established a hasty bivouac in a soccer field and went to sleep, thinking that our brief but intense dose of excitement was over. We didn't know that the climax was still to come.

First light and an Alouette helicopter arrived at the same time. On a dawn patrol to survey the township, the pilot had spotted an ominous development and wanted our officer to go with him for a look. Leaving our Platoon Sergeant with instructions to get us ready for more action, he jumped into the chopper and clattered off, as we started checking equipment. In minutes he was back. Forming us into three ranks, the lieutenant said, "There are about a million 'houties' out there, trying to get into Gwelo from the other side. From the air it looks like a buffalo migration, and the RAR won't be here for at least another three hours. We've got to stop them. Blanks aren't going to work again, so we'll have to try something different. Get on the truck and let's get going."

Political organizers had obviously worked overtime to have assembled such a seething multitude as the one that we confronted across an open field just west of town. A police superintendent in a helicopter overhead estimated at least 7,000 people, with more arriving constantly, but reported no firearms, only spears, knobkerries, and pangas. We could feel the vibrations of the mob's dull roar in our chests, and hear shriller ululations from thousands of women. Dismounting from our truck a thousand yards in front of their advance, we listened to a quick briefing. "We are the only thing between them and Gwelo," said the lieutenant. "They are not going in. If you are in personal danger, I authorize you to use live ammunition, but remember we will have to explain at a board of inquiry if you shoot. We'll try bayonets first." As he spoke the horde continued toward us, senseless, hostile, individual beings coalesced into a single, brutish entity.

"One rank, at 10-yard intervals, facing me, MOVE," said the lieutenant, shouting now. A thin green line 280 yards long formed opposite a 700-yard front of surging rabble as we doubled into position. "Fix ... BAYONETS!" With drilled precision our shaking arms and hands completed the necessary movements in the face of the approaching flood. "A magazine of 20 rounds ball ammunition ... LOAD! ... READY!" As we put our selectors to "safe," we drew some reassurance from our now live rifles, but still, there were millions of them now only 800 yards away. "Dressing by the center ... quick MARCH!" Twenty-eight of us, 10 yards apart and with bayonets thrust forward, followed the lieutenant across the open ground, walking into the mouth of the monster. "Shoot only if they get their hands on

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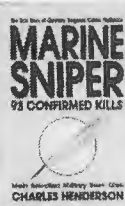
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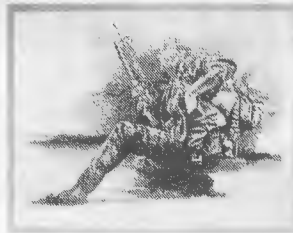
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I WAS THERE

Continued from page 90

you," Lt. Strong reminded us through his megaphone. "Standby ... CHARGE! CHARGE!" And we did.

Fear now erased by adrenaline rushing through our veins, we sprinted forward, bayonets flashing, eager to engage the enemy. Incredibly, before we could reach it, the vast mass shattered and dissolved. Seven thousand individuals took to their heels. We never had to fire a shot, and only two of them even got stuck. A few hours later the RAR arrived, and that afternoon we were back on the drill square, 28 converts to the tremendous psychological impact of cold steel. ✕

THE BIG LIE

Continued from page 75

geous. Judge King apparently thought it an outrage when Sheehan, Honey and Avirgan had to fess up they couldn't provide the names and identities of 20 of their 79 key sources because they didn't remember who they were. Some of the traceable and named 59 stated under oath that they didn't know Sheehan, had never spoken to him or denied what he attributed to them. The judge was not amused by that either. Nor was he pleased that what was left was mere hearsay, second-, third-, fourth-, fifth- or worse-hand as often as not.

Accuracy In Media tracked media coverage of both of Judge King's decisions.

Ted Turner's special projects division from CNN had interviewed many of the principals when it thought the case was going to trial. After King's decision, CNN dumped its program in the trash. Queried by AIM, Turner Broadcasting System attorney Steven Korn explained, "Dismissal made the lawsuit no longer a newsworthy event."

CNN and the networks never reported the Rule 11 decision.

The print media covered Judge King's dismissal of the case, generally with brief articles inside. When the Rule 11 decision came down, the print media's big three (*The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times*) buried it inside, the *Boston Globe* ran a paragraph and 12 major papers (*USA Today*, *The New York Post*, *Newsday*, *The Wall St. Journal*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Rocky Mountain News*, *The Detroit News*, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and *The Milwaukee Journal*) had no story at all.

I'm still waiting for a call from the *Columbia Journalism Review* asking if I would be interested in doing an article on shoddy journalism and the Christics or

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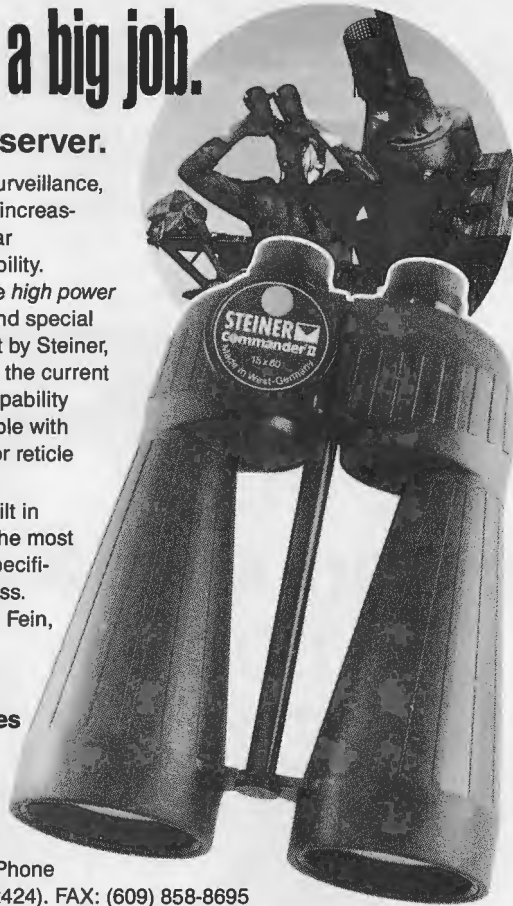
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lefties and idiots impersonating journalists in the newsroom. I've got folders and folders stuffed with stories on the Christic fable from all over America. Not more than a handful of reporters ever went to the trouble of checking out a single purported fact. If *Vanity Fair's* readers still don't know how it came out — want to make a bet? — the editor can find me in the book in Boulder, Colorado.

Barger (CNN), Perry (CNN), the Cockburns (CBS and *The Wall Street Journal*) and Honey-Avirgan are still out there bringing the American public impartial and objective reporting, day after day, night after night.

No embarrassment at all. No effort at all to correct the record. Not a mention of how, and more important, why the media got it wrong. Millions of dollars in negative publicity, hundreds of scurrilous accusations against innocent people are forgotten with at best a brief notice that the Christic case was dismissed not for a lack of evidence but for being fabricated.

No effort to expose the hidden agendas of the journalists who created the story; no effort to probe the motives of the sources who stirred the plot; no effort to determine what the Christics' motives were.

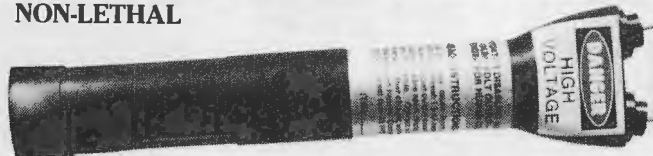
Frightening, isn't it.

Jim Graves, former managing editor of Soldier of Fortune, has been researching the Christics for years and may publish a book detailing the true story behind their unfounded lawsuit. ✕

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SF WET AND WILD

Continued from page 65

The team made its way to the creek, posted security, and began to put their boats together. This was a complex process, including a bewildering assortment of ribs, struts, braces and other parts. Oddly shaped kayak pieces were strewn about, the canvas shells were unrolled, and the students went to work. The men built each kayak's skeleton in sections and then assembled the basic frame inside the hull. At this point, each pair of students packed most of their equipment into the bow and stern of their craft and then attached the seats. After the upper structure was added, the team cleaned up the assembly area and changed into their dry suits. Then, as night fell, they set their kayaks in the water and silently paddled away.

It was now too dark to take any more pictures, so we picked up our gear and headed back to the van. Another CH-47 thundered overhead on its way to deliver the next team to LZ Owl. The last team, Maj. Drake told me, planned to reach their at-sea rendezvous at 0300. It was definitely going to be another long night for the WIC students.

Back in my hotel room, I thought about



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the FTX and the Waterborne Infiltration Course in general. Both students and instructors had been deadly serious about the exercise, and they had needed every skill they had learned in the six-week course. WIC is a challenging school and it gives soldiers the kind of training that makes for an effective special ops force. In an age of budget cuts, I'd say a six-week course that can do that sounds like quite a bargain.

John Landers is a freelance writer living in southern Florida. He previously wrote "Alpha 66" (SOF, Nov. '90).

PRIVATE DELTA FORCE

Continued from page 28

going to rely increasingly on resources located in politically and militarily volatile regions. Governments are too vulnerable to terrorism and political coercion to guarantee the safety of corporate personnel in such areas.

Qualified private organizations and individuals capable of dealing with operational risks will become an increasingly essential component of business plans in world trouble spots well into the next century.

As things currently stand in the Middle East as this issue goes to print, they seem to be needed now, too.

CTU can be contacted at (919) 864-9806, FAX (919) 864-3106, or P.O. Box 41627, Fayetteville, NC 28309.

Chuck Fremont, an active member of the U.S. Special Forces Reserve community, has been associated with SOF for a number of years. One way or another, he'll end up in the Middle East.

COMMAND GUIDANCE

Continued from page 1

A wild card is the Kuwaiti resistance. Kuwaiti pilots and troops escaped after a hard but brief fight with invading Iraqi forces and have since been regrouping and training in northeast Saudi Arabia, with technical assistance by American specialists. The Kuwaitis have more at stake than anyone in this conflict: They stand to lose their homeland if Hussein succeeds. They also are well financed. With appropriate U.S. assistance, they could make life in Kuwait short and difficult for Iraqi occupation forces.

If Iraq's military leaders become convinced that occupation of Kuwait will carry a higher cost than they are willing to pay, a coup or internal assassination becomes a possibility. Assassination is a standard procedure in Iraqi politics as

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Commandos, Brit in Oman army; WEAPONS: S. Africa's 40mm MGL, MAC M11, .44 Special Bulldog.

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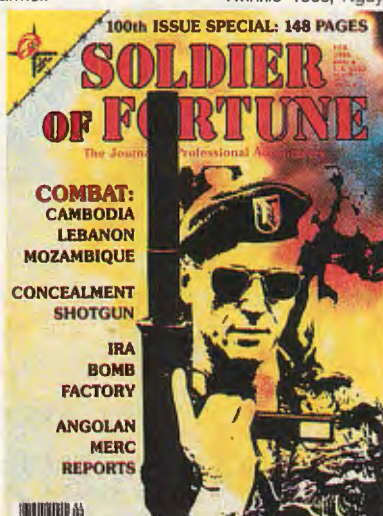
#106 August 1986: AFTER-ACTION REPORT: American bombers over Libya; CENTRAL AMERICA: insurgent hardware in El Salvador; ELITE UNITS: French Naval commandos; WEAPONS: Combloc sniper rifles; AWARDS: Britain's Victory Cross.

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#108 October 1986: BORDER PATROL: ops on the Tex/Mex border; WEAPONS: Kalashnikov sidefolder; CENTRAL AMERICA — Sandinistas

bungle Honduran invasion; HISTORY: saga of General Jack Singlaub; SOUTHEAST ASIA: inside Cambodia.

#109 November 1986: WEAPONS: Caspian Arms .45; VIETNAM — civilian MIAs in Indochina; WEAPONS: Skorpan machine pistol; HISTORY: Dezinformatsia, Soviets con Allies in the Balkans; MIDDLE EAST: SOF on the green line in Beirut; ELITE UNITS: Korea's mountain infantry.



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practiced by Saddam Hussein, and he's used it numerous times to dispose of critics in the military. It's a good bet that there are more than a few Iraqi officers who would be happy to provide some payback.

So it looks like there are a number of approaches we could take in either terminating Saddam ourselves, assisting and encouraging others to do so or creating a set of circumstances in Iraq that would make killing Saddam an attractive option for his own people. As the political stalemate in the region deepens and the military sitzkrieg drags on, this looks like the most effective solution to the crisis and the least costly option in terms of U.S. and other lives lost. How about it, Mr. President? Unsheathe your sword. DEATH TO TYRANTS! ✕

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Continued from page 4

cific Coast call (415) 421-9620. The Unlicensed Division of MEBA also reports shortages in the following ratings: AB, Bosun, Pumpman and Electrician; call (212) 614-6600.

JUSTICE NO. 1 ... Cargo kicker Eugene Hasenfus and his wife, Sally, sued Southern Air Transport (Miami) and retired USAF Maj. Gen. Richard Secord for \$35 million damages resulting from Hasenfus' incarceration by the Sandinistas in 1986. He was captured when the C-123 he was in was shot down by a SAM-7 over Nicaragua, the plane being part of an Ollie North-Secord contra resupply effort. Captain Bill Cooper and Wallace "Buz" Sawyer died in the crash. Hasenfus was jailed for 90 days and released by Comrade Danny Ortega at the request of Senator Chris Dodd. The Hasenfus case jury awarded Hasenfus and his wife nothing. Secord was defended by Miami attorney Thomas R. Spencer, Jr., who successfully defended retired Army Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub in the Christic Institute fiasco.

JUSTICE NO. 2 ... Meanwhile on the banks of the Potomac, Gen. Secord pled guilty last January to failing to disclose to Congress a \$13,000 security fence purchased for Ollie North during the covert operation (North and his family were on Abu Nidal's hit list). Secord received a \$50 fine from a Washington, D.C., federal judge. North's conviction was overturned last July. But "Independent" Counsel Walsh apparently wants to make his temporary assignment permanent. He has spent — so far — \$140,000,000 of our tax dollars and achieved a \$50 fine. Not bad.

JUSTICE NO. 3 ... MSGT Roberto Bryan, under murder charges for shooting a PDF soldier at a roadblock while with the 82nd Airborne during Operation Just Cause in Panama, was promptly acquitted by the jury at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Top, the best of luck to you. Sometimes our system of justice injures a lot of innocents along the way, but generally it works.

JUSTICE NO. 4 ??? The House Armed Services Committee wants to set up the old military bases on Wake and Midway islands as druggie prisons. The cost of maintaining such remote installations might be offset by having the cons do labor now contracted out, the committee said. Well, it might work — nobody ever swam away from Alcatraz and lived to tell about it. Maybe they could send offenders to Johnson Island and have them help burn old nerve gas.

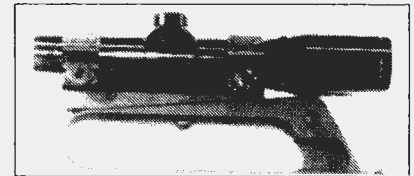
JUSTICE NO. 5 ??? Mr. Krisana Boontus, 36, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was recently hanged. His crime was (Multiple Choice): Murder? Rape? Terrorism? Insurrection? Espionage? Conspiracy? Narcotics? Theft? Possession of a handgun? You guessed it. HCl will be pleased.

FMLN GUNRUNNER NABBED ... Honduran officials nabbed Frenchwoman Eve de Maziere in a German minibus with Belgian plates and six sets of ID at Nicaraguan border. Documents on board indicated six earlier trips, and this trip she had under a false floor 229 81mm mortar rounds, over a hundred propellant charges, plus instruction manuals, detailed maps of Salvadoran military garrisons, correspondence and instructions to FMLN members.

WINNIE MANDELA'S SECRET ... Is the name of a 12-minute video documentary released by Accuracy In Media that details the terrorist activities of the African National Congress (ANC) as endorsed by Winnie Mandela. A \$10 donation will deliver your copy from AIM, Dept SOF, 1275 K St., NW, Washington DC 20005

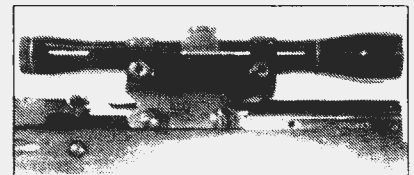
BODYGUARDS OF THE WORLD, UNITE ... New professional association of protective service specialists has been formed to advance knowledge, ethics, efficiency and professionalism among those who serve to protect the people, property and information assets of private, public, and governmental organizations. The *International Bodyguard Association* provides a network of contacts, and strives to promote understanding and cooperation among its members. Professionals in this field may contact the IBA at Dept. SOF, 9842 Hilbert St., Suite 161, San Diego, CA 92131. ✕

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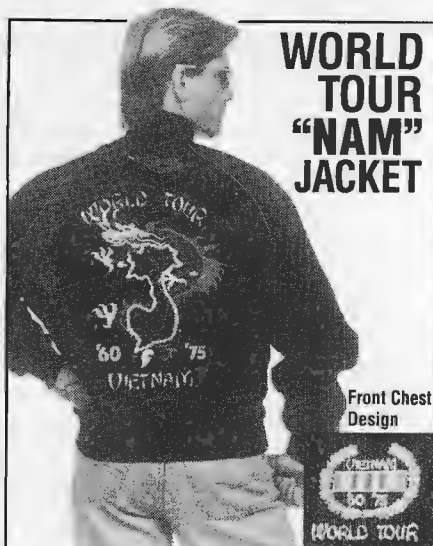


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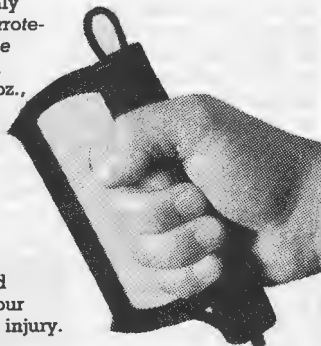
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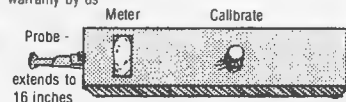
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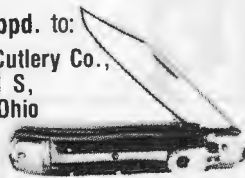
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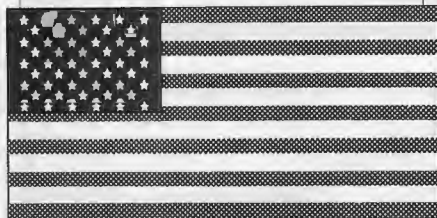
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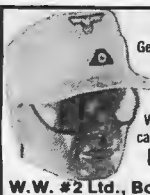
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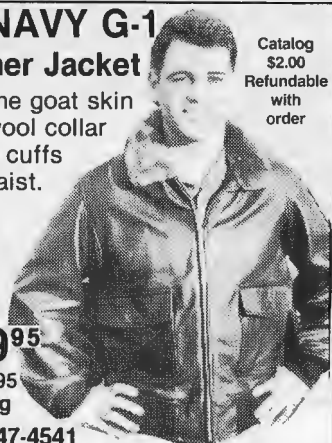
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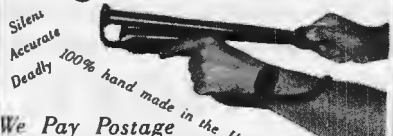
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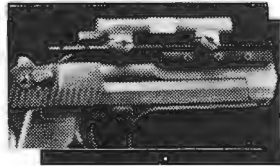
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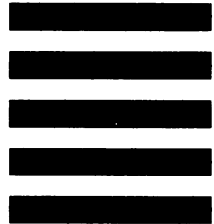
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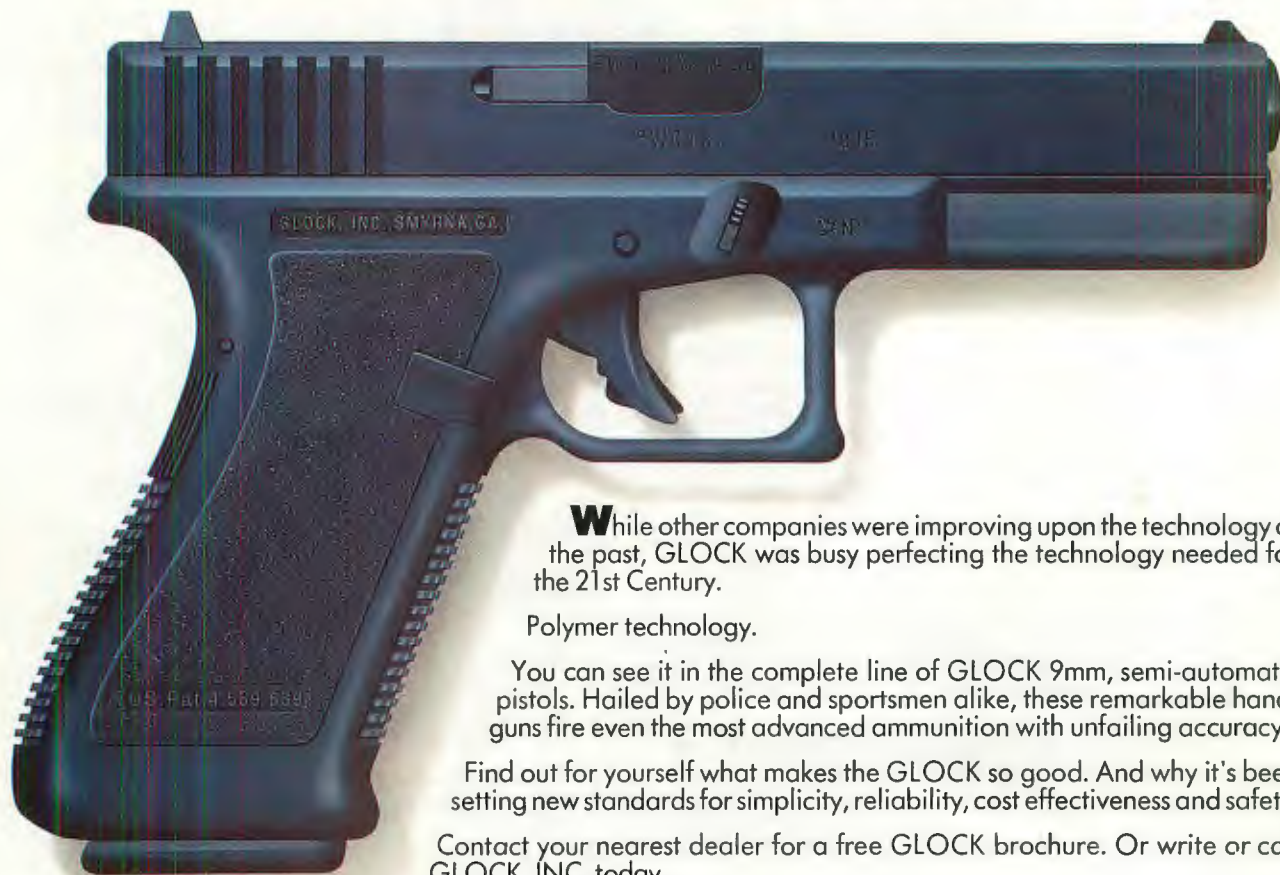
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